

Public Document Pack

Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr
Chief Officer (Governance)
Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



To: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chairman)

CS/NG

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Paul Cunningham,
Peter Curtis, Adele Davies-Cooke,
Andy Dunbobbin, David Healey, Ray Hughes,
Colin Legg, Phil Lightfoot, Dave Mackie,
Nancy Matthews, Vicky Perfect, Nigel Steele-
Mortimer, and Carolyn Thomas

11 September 2015

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

Co-optees: Janine Beggan, David Hytch,
Rita Price, Rebecca Stark and
Reverend John Thelwell

Dear Sir / Madam

A meeting of the **EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in the **DELYN COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, MOLD CH7 6NA** on **THURSDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2015** at **2.00 PM** to consider the following items.

Yours faithfully

Democracy & Governance Manager

A G E N D A

- 1 **APOLOGIES**
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**
- 3 **MINUTES** (Pages 3 - 24)
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 9 and 30 July 2015, and 24 August 2015
- 4 **SCHOOL MODERNISATION – VERBAL UPDATE**
To receive a verbal update from the Chief Officer (Education and Youth)

- 5 **UPDATE ON THE FLINTSHIRE INTEGRATED YOUTH PROVISION (IYP) DELIVERY AND COLLABORATIVE SERVICE MODEL** (Pages 25 - 40)
Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
- 6 **QUARTER 1 – IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORTS** (Pages 41 - 58)
Report of Housing and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator
- 7 **SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY – TASK & FINISH GROUP** (Pages 59 - 66)
Report of Member Engagement Manager
- 8 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 67 - 72)
Report of Housing and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator

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 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The report contains exempt information under paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 relating to the commercial terms on which the service is proposed to be made available to schools. The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

- 9 **SCHOOL SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (PROPERTY REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE)** (Pages 73 - 106)
Report of Chief Officer (Organisational Change) and Chief Officer (Education and Youth)

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **9 JULY 2015**

Minutes of the meeting of the Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday, 9 July 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Paul Cunningham, Peter Curtis, David Healey, Nancy Matthews, Vicky Perfect, Nigel Steele-Mortimer, and Carolyn Thomas

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Janine Beggan, David Hytch, and Rita Price

APOLOGIES: Councillor Colin Legg, Dave Mackie, and Rebecca Stark

CONTRIBUTORS:

Cabinet Member for Education, Chief Officer (Education and Youth), and Business Support Manager

IN ATTENDANCE:

The Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Marion Bateman declared a personal in the following item as she was a member of the Pupil Referral Unit.

Agenda item 5 – Year End Chief Officer Performance Report .

8. MINUTES

- (i) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 30 April 2015 had been circulated to Members with the agenda.
- (ii) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 May 2015 had been circulated to Members with the agenda.
- (iii) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 June 2015 had been circulated to Members with the agenda.

Accuracy

Councillor Chris Bithell said he had submitted his apologies to the meeting and asked that the minutes be amended to record this.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the above amendment the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

The Chief Officer (Education and Youth) introduced a report to provide an update on the Education and Youth Improvement and Modernisation Strategy and how it supports the Council Improvement Plan 2015-16. He provided background information and referred to the key consideration concerning the development of regional working and the continued growth that is anticipated as the recommendations within the National Model for School Improvement Services are implemented.

The Chairman invited Members to raise questions.

Councillor Nancy Matthews sought an assurance that resources made available through the School Modernisation Strategy were focussed on teachers and teaching assistants rather than on administration and leadership costs. The Chief Officer provided this assurance.

Mr. David Hytch referred to the Education & Youth Improvement and Modernisation Strategy 2015-16 which was appended to the report and asked a number of questions around the key targets and outcomes for the Authority. He also raised questions in relation to young people and NEET and said he was pleased to note the small number of NEETS in Flintshire. He referred to the development and implementation of the regional Early Identification Tool Kit to identify learners at risk of disengagement and in terms of early identification asked how early that was meant to be and what tools were needed for primary and secondary schools. The Chief Officer responded to the questions and commented on the work undertaken in relation to NEETS in Wales and referred to implementation and monitoring of the TRAC plan in line with the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the Families First emerging project for NEET early identification/prevention.

Councillor Carolyn Thomas asked for an update on the development of the information technology programme in schools. In his response the Chief Officer referred to the need for learners to be skilled and confident in using information technology and also programmes in schools. He commented on the Service Level Agreement which had been agreed with the Heads Federation and the positioning of ICT technologists in schools in the next year to provide a local base and access to schools. He also referred to the sharing of skills and learning by school practitioners across the whole schools network.

In response to the further questions raised by Councillor Thomas concerning the repair and maintenance of school buildings, the Chief Officer commented that there was still a large backlog and that too many schools were not “fit” for 21 Century learning. Councillor Nancy Matthews asked for a definition of ‘fit for 21st Century education’. The Chief Officer agreed to provide the Committee with a description of a school building which would be fit for 21st century education.

Mrs. Rita Price raised a number of questions around the development and implementation of a plan for the next phase of Schools Modernisation, including continuing to implement the 21st Century school (Band A) programme. She commented on the need to develop all schools equitably and expressed concerns around the reference to evaluation of Post 16 provision in appendix 1, plan 4. The Chairman asked that the Committee be kept up to date with developments at the Post 16 Hub in Connah's Quay.

In response to the questions raised concerning the new Hub at Connah's Quay, the Chief Officer said he was confident that there were sufficient youngsters for the 6th Form centre to be fully occupied.

Councillor Nancy Matthews asked whether exam results obtained through courses at the Hub would be comparable to exam results at school Sixth forms and commented on the current difficulties in obtaining comparable results from Coleg Cambria.

In response to a question from Councillor Vicky Perfect concerning learners becoming disengaged from education or training, the Chief Officer advised that support would be provided through the identification of appropriate cultures and mentors. He said many schools were involved in specific courses to maintain engagement and interest for learners and cited Youth Armed Forces related training as an example.

Councillor Peter Curtis asked that the Committee hold a future meeting at the new school in Holywell, once it had been opened. It was agreed that this be added to the list of possible venues.

Councillor Carolyn Thomas raised the subject of Post 16 transportation to and from schools. In response to a suggestion put forward by Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer that a working group be set up to consider school transportation the Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator advised that an all Member workshop was being held on 22 July 2015, to populate the Forward Work Programmes for Overview & Scrutiny Committees and suggested that the item be put forward to the workshop. Following further discussion it was agreed by members that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to consider setting up a Task and Finish Group on school transportation.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Education and Youth Improvement and Modernisation Strategy 2015-16 be noted; and
- (b) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to consider setting up a Task and Finish Group on school transportation.

10. YEAR END CHIEF OFFICER PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Chief Officer (Education and Youth) introduced the 2014/15 Year End Service Performance Report produced at Chief Officer level for Education and Youth. He advised that a copy of the detailed Year End Chief Officer (Education & Youth) performance report was attached at Appendix 1 for consideration. The report included the key information in terms of areas of positive performance and any areas of concern.

Councillor Chris Bithell highlighted that the Authority still needed to take further key decisions in relation to school organisation to deliver efficient use of resources to benefit learners.

Councillor David Healey referred to previous comments around the growing concerns on school readiness following approval by Cabinet of the updated School Modernisation Strategy and asked if a copy of the report and minutes, from the relevant Cabinet meeting could be provided to him. The Chief Officer said that the team would be happy to discuss these issues with him if he wanted to get in contact following the meeting.

Councillor Carolyn Thomas raised concerns around pupils with behavioural problems affecting other pupils in schools. The Chief Officer responded to the comments and referred to the use of early intervention strategies and pupil referral provision. He explained that whilst the quality of pupil provision was currently adequate the Authority aspired to give better in terms of the improved involvement and quality of teaching and learning taking place within the Pupil Referral Unit. He commented that there were too many young people out of mainstream schools in Key Stage 4 and said discussions were taking place with Secondary headteachers around an alternative course of provision to keep young people engaged and within mainstream school at KS4. Councillor Peter Curtis expressed concerns that additional pressures and responsibilities were being placed on schools

Councillor Nancy Matthews asked what measures were taken if there was no improvement in a school where performance was causing concern. The Chief Officer advised that there was a range of escalating statutory powers that could be applied, however, intervention between the school and the Authority usually resulted in a rapid improvement in standards.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

11. YEAR END IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORTS

The Chief Officer (Education and Youth) introduced the 2014/15 Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report relevant to the Committee. He advised that the Report gives an explanation of the progress being made towards delivery of the impacts set out in the Improvement Plan. For the

Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee the following Improvement Plan sub-priority reports were appended to the report:

- Modernised and High Performing Education
- Apprenticeships and Training

Referring to the GwE/Regional forums attended by the Lead Member, Director, Headteacher and Governor representatives, Mr. David Hytch said that he was no longer a member of this Forum and commented on the lack of Governor representation at primary school level.

The Committee asked that its thanks be expressed to Kevin Grandfield, Secondary Phase Officer, for his support over the years and said that he had been an excellent officer who had always been willing to attend meetings to provide advice and assistance. The Chief Officer said that he would pass on the Committee's thanks and best wishes to Kevin Grandfield.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the reports be noted; and
- (b) That feedback be provided to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee who are responsible for the overview and monitoring of improvement targets.

12. EDUCATION FOR ALL TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator introduced a report on the setting up of an Education for All Task & Finish Group to help develop and evaluate policy options and proposed programmes. She provided background information and advised that a draft project plan appended to the report had been prepared as a starting point for the scrutiny exercise requested by the Committee at its meeting on 26 March 2015. She explained that the draft project plan would need to be discussed and amended at the first meeting of the Task and Finish Group.

The Committee were asked to consider establishing an Education for All Task & Finish Group and to nominate Members to the Group. Members agreed to set up an Education for All Task & Finish Group to develop and evaluate policy options and proposed programmes and Councillors Paul Cunningham, Dave Mackie, and Mr. David Hytch put their names forward to be members of the Group. It was agreed that the Facilitator would contact those Members who were not present to ask if they would like to volunteer to sit on the Task & Finish Group.

The Facilitator advised that the first meeting of the Task & Finish Group would be held during September 2015, and that the terms of reference for the Group would then be submitted to a following meeting of the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee agree to establish an Education for All Task & Finish Group to develop and evaluate policy options and proposed programmes;
- (b) That Councillors: Paul Cunningham, Dave Mackie and Mr. David Hytch be nominated to sit on the Education for All Task & Finish Group; and
- (c) That the Facilitator contact the Committee Members, not present, to ask if they would like to volunteer to sit on the Education for All Task & Finish Group

13. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator introduced the forward work programme of the Committee. She reminded members that an all Member Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programme workshop would be held on 22 July 2015 to consider the impact of budget cuts and to populate the Forward Work Programmes for Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

The Facilitator advised that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on 17 September 2015 and advised that an item on Service Level Agreements had been listed so far for consideration.

Councillor Nancy Matthews requested that the Committee receive a report on licenced school deficits at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Work Programme be noted.

14. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 3.37pm)

.....
Chairman

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
30 JULY 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday, 30 July 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Paul Cunningham, Peter Curtis, Adele Davies-Cooke, Andy Dunbobbin, David Healey, Nancy Matthews, Vicky Perfect, Nigel Steele-Mortimer, and Carolyn Thomas

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Rita Price and Rev. John Thelwell

APOLOGIES: Councillors Colin Legg and Phil Lightfoot. Janine Beggan, David Hytch and Rebecca Stark

SUBSTITUTION: Councillor Dennis Hutchinson (for Dave Mackie)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Bernie Attridge, Christine Jones and David Wisinger

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Aaron Shotton, Leader of the Council, Councillor Chris Bithell, Cabinet Member for Education, Chief Executive, Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Secondary School Phase Officer, and Finance Manager

IN ATTENDANCE:

Member Engagement Manager, Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator, and Committee Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting the Member Engagement Manager informed members that the Committee would be considering two school modernisation reports made under the School Standards and Organisation Act 2013. The first related to statutory proposals for John Summers High School and the second to St. David's High School, Saltney.

For the first report, the Committee was being informed of the responses from the statutory consultation period on the sustainability of John Summers High School and the options for future education provision and invited to comment in advance of the Cabinet being requested to conclude on a formal proposal at its meeting on Thursday, 6 August 2015.

For the second report, the Committee was being informed of responses from the statutory consultation period for the proposal to change the age range at St. David's High School, Saltney. Again, it would be for the Cabinet to make the actual decision on the item.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Wisinger declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item as he was a school governor at John Summers High School.

Agenda item 4 – School Modernisation – School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 – John Summers High School – Statutory Proposals .

The Member Engagement Manager explained that Councillor Wisinger, local Member for the Ward, had been granted the right to speak at the start of the meeting and then withdraw.

The Chairman invited members of the Committee to make a declaration if they were school governors and a number of members so indicated.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 June 2015 had been circulated to Members with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

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

17. SCHOOL MODERNISATION – SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION ACT 2013 – JOHN SUMMERS HIGH SCHOOL – STATUTORY PROPOSALS

The Chief Officer (Education and Youth) introduced a report to inform the Committee of the responses from the statutory consultation period on the sustainability of John Summers High School, and options for future education provision. He advised that comments from the Committee were invited in advance of the Cabinet being requested to conclude on a formal proposal.

The Chief Officer provided background information and referred to the key considerations as detailed in the report concerning the sustainability of John Summers High School, and transitional issues. He explained that whilst the concerns and anxieties of the local community were recognised, the Authority had a duty to provide high quality secondary education which was sustainable and affordable for pupils in the future. He advised that due to the low annual intake of pupils in year seven and financial pressures, John Summers High School was not sustainable and would not be able to meet the breadth of curriculum required by the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure going forward.

The Chief Officer commented on historical pupil data and the long term trend of low numbers at post 16 at John Summers which had led to the work around transformation. He explained that there was a downward trend of pupils in neighbouring primary schools transferring into the School and that the average transfer rate over the past two years was only 60% from the closest schools. He reported on the projections for housing yield for the Northern Gateway project which was to be developed between 2017-2028 and advised that the total 'yield' of secondary school age child numbers eligible for admission to John Summers was 199. If the full cohort of children were assumed to be admitted the number of pupils on roll at John Summers would be in the region of 504 when all projections were combined, which was below the four form entry of 600 places required at 11-16 age range. The housing yield figures did not take into account parental choice or pupil movement. The Chief Officer also commented on the prediction for future admission numbers based on birth rates in Flintshire and the Shotton/Queensferry areas in particular.

The Chief Officer went on to report on the implications around funding, sustainability, and staffing. He referred to a reduction in funding for schools of around 2% due to nationally agreed pay awards and employers pension contribution increases. He advised that in 2016/17, these costs/pressures would increase again with the national implementation of the Single Tier Pension being a major factor. To provide John Summers with a budget which enabled the school to meet its curriculum requirements, a considerable subsidy would be required and he cited an example which demonstrated the differential per pupil funding between John Summers and another high school in the County. The Chief Officer stated that the Council would not be able to continue to subsidise John Summers High School without adversely impacting on other schools which were comparatively low funded. The School would also need to address further challenges due to falling pupil numbers and changes in specific grant funding. Based on pupil number projections and the assessed impact of real term inflationary pressures the Chief Officer advised that the School could face a 16% reduction in funding over the next four years which would result in a loss of teaching posts.

The Chief Officer referred to the concerns raised by the local community following consultation on John Summers and said the importance of all the issues raised were fully recognised and were being addressed as part of the transitional plans. Full consultation and cooperation was taking place with all Headteachers in the area to secure the best outcomes for pupils and students. He explained that there were currently sufficient places in other schools for pupils who would be transferred if a decision was taken to close John Summers. The options for transport being provided, and subsidised where needed, were being worked through. Students in all year groups would be supported and guided through their future education options and choices and the current GCSE study groups would be given support to complete their current examination choices.

In summarising his comments the Chief Officer reiterated his advice that current and future pupil numbers for John Summers High School were

insufficient to be sustained. He referred to the ongoing reduction of funding in public finance and said the only way to safeguard quality of education for young people in the area was to make a change in the existing provision.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Officer for his presentation. He invited Councillor David Wisinger, the local Member for the Ward, to speak.

Councillor Wisinger thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak at the meeting and said he wished the Committee to consider the following suggestion for recommendation to the meeting of Cabinet on 6 August 2015. "That Flintshire County Council Planning Officers work closely with the two developers of the Northern Gateway site, to come to an arrangement where a sum of money can be agreed and ring fenced to build a new secondary school. This can either be built on the Airfields site or on the current John Summers School site in Queensferry. If a new technology centre is to be built, as proposed, on the Northern Gateway, then perhaps the school could be linked to this. This new school would serve all the surrounding communities and also stop the migration of children over the English border".

Councillor Wisinger read out statements which detailed the comments and concerns to the proposal which he had received from local residents around transport, transitional arrangements, and pupil numbers.

At this point Councillor Wisinger withdrew from participation in the meeting.

Councillor David Healey raised concerns around the transitional arrangements and asked if there was sufficient partnership to ensure the smooth transition of Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils. He also expressed concerns around the concept of curriculum alignment and said he was sceptical about the level to which this could be achieved and asked if any funds had been set aside to address this matter. In his response the Chief Officer advised that local headteachers were at the very centre of transitional planning and worked in close partnership and in the best interest of all pupils, to plan for any change that might arise as a result of the proposals. The Chief Officer invited the Secondary Phase Officer to report in further detail on the longstanding collaborative working arrangements between secondary schools in the County. The Secondary School Phase Officer advised that collaborative working between schools had provided opportunities for learning which would otherwise not have been viable. He also commented on the subject of school transport and travel arrangements and the use of grant funding which was and would continue to be a pressure going forward.

The Chief Officer also addressed the concerns which had been raised by Councillor Wisinger regarding a financial contribution from developers of the Northern Gateway. He referred to the legal framework concerning developer contributions and explained that developers did not make contributions where there was sufficient school places for children in the area and advised that there was an excess of school places in the area going

forward. The Chief Officer also responded to the additional concerns which had been raised by Councillor Wisinger on behalf of residents around the financial cost of providing new school uniforms and advised that pupils may be entitled to a grant towards the cost of their school uniform and that parents/carers could claim a school uniform grant if their child was eligible for free school meals and lived in Flintshire.

The Chief Executive referred to the historical pupil data which was contained in the report which provided evidence of the steady decline in pupil numbers since 2006.

On the subject of transport the Chief Officer suggested that the Committee may wish Cabinet to further consider a request from young people around the provision of transport arrangements on a discretionary basis for pupils in order to ease the transfer process from one school to another.

Councillor Nancy Matthews said she had concerns as to why, despite historical data detailing low numbers at John Summers High School, the Authority had considered building a new school for the 3-16 age range a relatively short time ago and had subsequently withdrawn from that. She emphasised the need for care regarding the impact of the transition process on young people. She expressed further concerns that the talent of young people nurtured in the Additional Learning Needs department may be lost, and on the redeployment of teaching staff, particularly Post 16 teachers.

Councillor Aaron Shotton, Leader of the Council, acknowledged the comments made by Councillor Matthews and said that the decision to be made by Cabinet regarding the future of John Summers High School was one of the most difficult to be considered. Concerning the proposal for a new build he said that an opportunity had been provided to submit a capital business case to the Welsh Government (WG) for funding through the 21st Century Schools programme. The vision was to give hope and confidence to the local community for the future of John Summers High School through the prospect of a 3-16 educational model and new campus. The business case had to meet a number of tests to proceed. Since then the development opportunities at the Northern Gateway project had not progressed as anticipated and the Authority had been faced with unprecedented levels of financial austerity.

Councillor Chris Bithell reiterated the comments expressed by Councillor Shotton and said that the intention had been to give the School and the community the best chance, however, the anticipated uptake in pupil numbers had not materialised and the latest projections fell far short of the number required for a viable sustainable school.

The Chief Executive commented that there had been a genuine commitment and belief that a new build option and a 3-16 educational model was viable, however, in preparation of the case to the WG for funding for capital investment there proved to be not a sufficient credible business case to put forward.

Councillor Carolyn Thomas proposed that the Committee should request that Flintshire County Council's Planning department negotiates with developers of the Northern Gateway site, the inclusion of a new high school as part of the infrastructure and provision needed for the allocation of houses if a trigger point is reached, perhaps linking with the new Technology facility. Councillor Dennis Hutchinson seconded the proposal and when put to the vote this was agreed by the Committee.

The Chairman referred to the comments made by the Committee on the issues which had been raised during the public consultation which were: pupil transfer and transition, transport, redeployment of teaching staff and teaching and support expertise, and support for new uniform provision, and said that these would be fed back to Cabinet for consideration at the meeting to be held on 6 August 2015.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee requests that Flintshire County Council's Planning department negotiates with developers of the Northern Gateway site, the inclusion of a new high school as part of the infrastructure and provision needed for the allocation of houses if a trigger point is reached, perhaps linking with the new Technology facility; and
- (b) That the issues which had been raised during the meeting on pupil transfer and transition, transport, redeployment of teaching staff and teaching and support expertise, and support for new uniform provision, be fed back to Cabinet as part of their consideration of the report on 6 August 2015

18. SCHOOL MODERNISATION – SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION ACT 2013 – SALTNEY ST. DAVID’S POST 16 STATUTORY PROPOSALS

The Chief Officer (Education and Youth) introduced a report to inform of the responses from the statutory consultation period for the proposal to change the age range at St. David’s High School, Saltney. He provided background information and referred to the key considerations in the report.

The Chief Officer advised that following the recent judicial review of a contested school reorganisation decision in South Wales, Flintshire had re-run the consultation exercise for post 16 arrangements at St. David’s, Saltney. The Council had again received only two responses to the proposal to change the age range from 11-18 to 11-16 at St. David’s High School. He explained that as part of the transition to a new post 16 centre, governors and schools would be ensuring continuity of education for post 16 education students. As such they would be continuing to implement organisational change plans given that transition was planned for September 2016. It was not possible for St. David’s to offer post 16 Education independently and meet the requirements of the Learning Measure.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Kevin Grandfield, Secondary Phase Officer, for his hard work and valuable contribution over the years. The Committee expressed their best wishes to him for a happy retirement.

RESOLVED:

That the responses on the proposal to secure improved learner choice and outcomes be endorsed.

19. EDUCATION ICT REVIEW

The Chief Officer (Governance) introduced a report to inform the Committee of the results of consultation with schools on reconfiguring the Education ICT Service which were approved by Cabinet on 16 June 2015.

The Chief Officer provided background information and referred to the key considerations. He advised that the proposed model worked on the principle that schools should be given as much autonomy as possible and that the County Council should retain control of only those services which were absolutely necessary. The model requires several Service Level Agreements to be drawn up by the Council and by schools. The Chief Officer reported that the proposals were agreed at Cabinet on 16 June 2015 with discretion to amend the proposals to reflect any comments that the Committee might subsequently make. A commencement date for the new service has not been determined and in the meantime the service will continue on its current lines.

In response to a question from Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer the Chief Officer advised that the proposed model covered all schools within the County and they would receive the same level of service.

Councillor Carolyn Thomas sought further information around the engagement of a consultant on the reconfiguration of the Service. The Chief Officer advised that a consultant had been employed on a short term contract initially to review customer needs and make proposals to meet the objectives. The consultant had been engaged again on a fixed term contract which would come to an end when the new service went live.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals be agreed.

20. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following item by virtue of exempt information under paragraph(s) 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

21. SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE

The Chief Officer (Education and Youth) introduced a report on a new management structure in Education and Youth delivering reductions in costs, providing opportunities for career development and meeting organisational design objectives. He provided background information and referred to the main considerations as detailed in the report. He reported on the proposed new structure which was outlined in appendix 3 to the report and advised that voluntary solutions had been provided in terms of changes to the existing structure.

Mrs. Rita Price raised concerns that there was no reference to educational partners or other providers of education in the new structure and that there was a danger in treating all schools the same. The Chief Officer responded to the concerns raised and gave an assurance that partnership working was recognised as important and would be fully reflected in strategic planning.

In response to the concerns raised by Councillor Carolyn Thomas the Chief Officer advised that the Council had a very positive working relationship with headteachers of schools both individually and collectively. With a fewer and smaller cohort of senior managers there would be more peer to peer support.

RESOLVED:

That the revised structure be recommended to Cabinet at its meeting on the 6 August 2015.

22. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were four members of the public and one member of the press in attendance

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 3.40pm)

.....
Chairman

EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
24 AUGUST 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Monday, 24 August 2015

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Paul Cunningham, Peter Curtis, Adele Davies-Cooke, Andy Dunbobbin, David Healey, Ray Hughes, Colin Legg, Vicky Perfect and Nigel Steele-Mortimer

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: David Hytch and Rev. John Thelwell

APOLOGIES: Councillors Phil Lightfoot, and Nancy Matthews. Janine Beggan and Rebecca Stark. Chief Officer (Education and Youth)

SUBSTITUTION: Councillor Mike Peers (for David Mackie)

ALSO PRESENT: (Initiators of the Call-In who were not Members of the Committee): Councillors: Glyn Banks, Cindy Hinds, and David Wisinger

Councillors: Bernie Attridge, Helen Brown and Clive Carver

CONTRIBUTORS:

Councillor Aaron Shotton, Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Chris Bithell, Cabinet Member for Education, Chief Executive . Secondary Schools Officer, 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator

IN ATTENDANCE:

Member Engagement Manager, Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator, and Committee Officer

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Wisinger declared a personal and prejudicial interest for the following item as he was a school governor at John Summers High School. Councillor Glyn Banks declared a personal and prejudicial interest for the following item as he was a school governor at Ysgol Mornant. Councillor Cindy Hinds declared a personal and prejudicial interest for the following item as she was a school governor at Ysgol Penyffordd.

Agenda item 4 – School Modernisation – School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 – John Summers High School – Statutory Proposals .

The Chairman invited members of the Committee to make a declaration if they were school governors and a number of members so indicated.

24. CONSIDERATION OF A MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO THE CALL IN ARRANGEMENTS

The Member Engagement Manager explained the procedure for the Call-in of a Cabinet decision.

25. SCHOOL MODERNISATION – SCHOOL STANDARDS AND ORGANISATION ACT 2013 – JOHN SUMMERS HIGH SCHOOL

The Member Engagement Manager referred to the Call-in to the decision of the Cabinet from its meeting held on 6 August 2015 relating to School Modernisation – School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 – John Summers High School. The Call-In notice had been signed by five Members of the Council. To assist Members, the following documents had been circulated with the agenda:-

- (a) A copy of the procedure for dealing with a called-in item.
- (b) A copy of the report considered by Cabinet on 6 August 2015
- (c) A copy of the Cabinet Record of Decision No. 3215
- (d) A copy of the Call-in notice signed by Councillors David Wisinger, Cindy Hinds, Glyn Banks, David Healey and Ron Hampson.

The Member Engagement Manager explained the procedure for a Call-in meeting. He then read out the reasons for the Call-in which was that the Committee, at its recent meeting, had recognised some of the concerns which the local community had voiced during the consultation – notably transition plans for individual pupils, particularly those in the lead up to GCSE examinations, and transport to and from alternative schools and its cost. Whilst the signatories noted that Cabinet had considered these concerns in passing its resolution more detail and assurance was requested. Given local rumour over the future of the John Summers High School site, the signatories sought an assurance that there was no plan in place for its future disposal and, should the School be closed, for a commitment that there would be open public consultation on the future options for the site including public open space. The Member Engagement Manager then outlined the four options available to the Committee.

The Chair invited the Call-in signatories to address the Committee. Councillor David Wisinger, as the first of the signatories, said that the reasons for the Call-in concerned issues relating to transport, transitional arrangements, and future use of the John Summers High School site. He explained that pupils of John Summers High and members of the public had raised questions around school transport costs and how the distance from home to school was measured. Questions had also been asked concerning

the financial impact on families due to additional transport costs and whether any financial help would be provided in the future or for the transitional year only. Councillor Wisinger asked if the “safe route to school policy” had been considered in the decision making process and referred to the possible effect that transport issues may have on pupils’ decisions to remain in school for extra curricular activities, particularly during the Winter months.

The Chair invited the decision makers to respond. A briefing note responding to the Initiators’ concerns had been prepared and circulated at the start of the meeting. The Cabinet Member for Education made an initial response and invited the 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator to provide further detail.

The 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator detailed the Authority’s statutory and discretionary transport provision and the current transport arrangements for John Summers High School. He also referred to the transport eligibility (assuming the decision was taken to close John Summers High School) based on predicted number of pupils, home addresses, nearest school and transport from home to school in accordance with the current transport policy. The Chief Executive advised that the three options concerning the future provision of school transport for John Summers High School pupils would be outlined at a meeting of the Cabinet to be held in September 2015.

The 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator responded to the question on safe routes to schools and explained that all applications for home to school transport were considered in line with the criteria in the transport policy to determine if a route was hazardous or not. In response to the further concerns raised by Councillor Wisinger around the measurement of distance between areas and local secondary schools, the 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator drew attention to the maps provided to the Committee which outlined pupil locations and transport zones in relation to Connah’s Quay High School. During discussion it was agreed that the 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator would also provide comparative information based on Hawarden High School.

In response to the concern raised by Councillor Wisinger concerning a lack of public transport in some areas, the 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator explained that if a pupil was eligible for free transport and service provision was not available the Authority would commission a bus for that purpose. Councillor Peter Curtis expressed concerns for pupils who were not eligible for free transport and did not have access to a bus service. He also commented on the additional financial hardship which could be placed on some families due to changes in the working tax credit.

Councillor Glyn Banks raised concerns on transition costs. The Chief Executive reiterated that a report detailing the transport transition issues would be submitted to the Cabinet.

Councillor Mike Peers commented on the financial burden on parents and the potential additional costs to the Authority due to transitional transport

arrangements. The Chief Executive referred to the current cost of transport to John Summers High School and advised that the Authority could consider offering discretionary transitional transport arrangements for the current school cohort at an additional cost of £75k in 2017/18 which would reduce in following years. The 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator reiterated his advice that the Authority provided free transport for children of compulsory school age where a child receiving secondary education lived over three miles from the nearest appropriate school. Free transport was also provided for pupils of statutory school age where a child whose parents/carers were in receipt of Income Support or Working Tax Credit resided more than 2.5 miles from the nearest appropriate school.

On the issue of transition arrangements, Councillor David Wisinger asked if thorough consultation had been undertaken with the traveller community. He said a number of traveller children attended John Summers High School and they had indicated that they did not wish to transfer to another school. Councillor Wisinger asked what support was in place to assist pupils choosing their options in Year 9 and pupils taking examinations in the transitional year. Councillor Wisinger also raised further concerns around the capacity of other nearby secondary schools, for example Hawarden High School, to accommodate additional pupils from John Summers High.

Councillor David Healey expressed a number of concerns around the transitional arrangements for Key Stage 4 pupils at John Summers High School. He raised further concerns regarding curriculum alignment and said there were significant differences in some subjects between secondary schools. He commented on the transfer of pupils in Year 10 from John Summers High to Year 11 in another school and expressed the view that the proposal was unacceptable and flawed. He said that it created a “risk” to the choices for a Year group at John Summers High and also to the examination results for the Year group at another school. Councillor Healey suggested that the Committee consider referring the decision back to Cabinet for reconsideration. He also suggested that the group that would be Year 10 in John Summers High in 2016/17 could move to a new school at the start of academic year (September 2016/17).

The Secondary Schools Officer reported on the transition plan. He explained that as part of the proposals for school organisational change at John Summers High School a draft curriculum transition plan was presented to both Overview & Scrutiny and Cabinet in August 2015. He said it was acknowledged that school organisational change could cause uncertainty for parents/carers, pupils, staff, and the wider community, across a number of issues and that a main factor was continuity of education. The Transition Plan concentrated on the requirements of the learners and aimed to mitigate risk of discontinuity of education. The Secondary Schools Officer referred to the agreement in principle with partnering High schools that they would work with the Council and John Summers High School on all issues around the curriculum including option choices at Key Stage 4. He advised that detailed transition plans would be developed with John Summers High School and

partner schools, particularly Connah's Quay High School, between September 2015 to December 2015, in time for learners, parents and carers to make informed choices prior to considering options for GCSE's and other examination courses. The Council and partnering High schools would also work on a contingency plan should there be a delay in the Ministerial decision which was anticipated end of January 2016. The Secondary Schools Officer provided further detail on the transitional planning.

In response to the question on consultation with the traveller community, the Secondary Schools Officer advised that all pupils at John Summers High School will have an individual pupil plan and gave the same assurance that the individual needs of all pupils would be taken into account throughout the transition planning process.

Regarding the capacity of other local schools to accommodate additional pupils from John Summers High, the Secondary Schools Officer advised that the preferences for Hawarden High School would be managed in line with the current admissions criteria. Pupils for whom it was the nearest school would take priority for places which would displace intake to the school from pupils expressing a preference from further afield.

Councillor Cindy Hinds expressed concerns around the need for future educational provision in Deeside. The 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator reported on the projections for housing yield for the Northern Gateway which was yet to be developed. He advised that the total 'yield' of secondary school age child numbers eligible for admission to John Summers was 231 which had reduced to 199 following new census information. If the full cohort of children were assumed to be admitted the number of pupils on roll at John Summers would be in the region of 504 when all projections were combined, which was below the four form entry or a 600 places school required at 11-16. The housing yield figures were the maximum numbers and did not take into account parental choice for alternative schools or pupil movement.

The Chief Executive emphasised that the Northern Gateway was a long term development and commented on the uncertainty around housing yield figures and the impact of parental choice. He advised that current and projected pupil numbers for John Summers High School were insufficient for the school to be sustained.

Councillor Aaron Shotton also commented on the uncertainty around the Northern Gateway project in terms of the number of properties to be built by two private developers. He reiterated that the projected 'yield' of secondary school age child numbers eligible for admission to John Summers High was based on the maximum number of properties to be built.

During discussion, the Secondary Schools Officer responded to the further concerns raised by Councillor Healey regarding the movement of children from one school to another and to new teaching groups. He gave an assurance that everything possible would be done to ensure continuity of teaching and curriculum. On the suggestion by Councillor Healey that Year

10 pupils in John Summers High moved a year early, the Secondary Schools Officer advised that this may not be legal and also referred to the matter of parental choice. He commented on the issue of timescales and explained that in addition to planning for the Ministerial decision being in January 2016, as anticipated, the Authority also had to have contingency plans in place should the Minister not make a determination until later in the year.

Councillor David Wisinger raised concerns around the impact of the proposal to close John Summers High School on Queensferry Primary School which shared some of the facilities provided by John Summers High. The 21st Century Schools Co-ordinator advised that capital investment through 21st Century funding would be used to bring Queensferry Primary School up to standard.

Councillor Wisinger referred to the future of the John Summers High School site should the proposal to close the school be approved, and asked for an assurance that there were no plans in place for its disposal to prospective developers. He also sought a commitment that there would be public consultation on the use of the site as a public open space.

The Chief Executive gave an assurance that the land was owned by the Authority for educational purposes and that there were no plans to dispose of the site for any other purpose. He referred to the size of the site, the location, and surrounding amenities and infrastructure, and commented that “open space” was at a premium. The Chief Executive advised that any potential disposal of the site would be a Cabinet decision and public consultation would take place as needed.

Councillor Aaron Shotton took the opportunity to refute rumours over the land if demolition of the John Summers High School building was to take place. He said that if the Minister took the decision to close the School he would be in favour of the land being protected as “open space” for community use in perpetuity

The Chair outlined the Committee’s four options for decision.

Councillor Peter Curtis proposed Option 3 which was seconded by Councillor David Healey. On being put to the vote the proposal was carried; the decision was referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration. Councillors Adele Davies-Cooke and Nigel Steele-Mortimer abstained from the vote.

RESOLVED:

That having considered the decision, the Committee was still concerned about it and referred it back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

26. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were 29 members of the public and two members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 11.00am and ended at 12.22 pm)

.....

Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank



EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	17 September 2015
Report Subject	Update on the Flintshire Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) delivery and collaborative service model
Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member for Education & Youth
Report Author	Chief Officer Education and Youth
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents an update on service development from early intervention, Families First, Youth Services and Youth Justice services into collaborative provision of Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) in accordance with the “Delivering Together plan 2014 – 2018”. The plan sets out our approach to securing open access into all services. The report updates on milestones achieved. This includes innovations and alternative approaches to deliver effectively within the confines of reduced resources. Put simply we are designing Integrated Youth Provision to safeguard services for our most vulnerable service users and their families.

The report updates on achievements of agreed outcomes and shares external monitoring feedback. (**Appendix 1** sets out Welsh Government feedback on Youth participation).

The report requests support to continue to develop the exploration of collaborative models for delivery and enable ideas for income generation.

The report requests support to introduce a review of caretaking delivery and hire costs for centres to bring hire charges in line with market rates to contribute to our 30% budget reduction targets.

The report also updates on the proposed four models of delivery proposed by Welsh Government and requests support for our local plans to maintain an effective and proactive Flintshire youth provision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To support the new delivery model recognising that Integrated Youth Provision is delivering increased outcomes despite resource reductions. (Appendix 2 Reductions in management and staffing costs diagram from Member workshop November 2014).
2	To support the collaborative and co-commissioned service model being developed in partnership with the third sector. This will enable bespoke delivery of outcomes for our most vulnerable young people and their families and our groups with protected characteristics. It will support us to offer effective interventions at the earliest opportunity. Examples are detailed below in 1.01

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FLINTSHIRE INTEGRATED YOUTH PROVISION (IYP) DELIVERY AND COLLABORATIVE SERVICE MODEL
1.01	Integrated Youth Provision has commissioned targeted work to enhance the existing universal service offer and to provide additional services in a competitive low cost delivery model.
1.02	The service has embarked on an internal training and development programme working with Youth Justice and third sector key officers. Training together has offered a richer and a more challenging learning experience and ensures strategic buy in. The structure will be fluid and will adapt to needs within the life of the plan. All staff have already been able to respond to this approach. E.g. By using collaborative staff team approaches to our residential camp for various cohorts of vulnerable young people. A full bilingual report will be shared at our planned December elected members workshop.
1.03	The service has proactively targeted third sector specialists (e.g. young carers, CAIS, and URDD) to deliver best value, targeted approaches to supporting young people. Examples include collaboration with the commissioning officer for Social Services Carer Strategy, Barnados Young Carer Project and North East Wales Cares Information Service (NEWCIS) to develop a bespoke and co-ordinated single service for Young Carer support. The development is innovative and needs led and contributes to our targeted work. Similarly, we have deployed our expert knowledge in substance misuse in training sessions for staff in other Council functions..
1.04	The Senior Manager for Integrated Youth Provision as lead commissioner has led the re-focusing of funding for interventions to enable an earlier identification of potential NEET young people. The collaboration of several third sector and Youth Services elements, co-managed and co-delivered, will provide a targeted early intervention and will work within the guidelines

<p>1.05</p>	<p>of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to ensure that Flintshire build systems for early identification of potential NEET young people. This will also enhance the emerging TRAC programme which is a regional programme to target potential NEET young people and build on shared good practice.</p> <p>The following examples of milestones and outcomes achieved have been delivered by our model of universal, targeted and specialist delivery. These outcomes are a snapshot of a suite of achieved outcomes within “Delivering Together 2014 – 2018”. We consistently seek to assess the effectiveness of service innovations.</p> <p><u>OUTCOME 1 – Young People have opportunities for engagement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange visit between Welsh young people and Irish young people, we have hosted the Dublin visitors and we return to Dublin in October 2015. A full report will be delivered by staff and young people following the planned October visit for our elected member annual workshop planned for December 2015. • Development of a coordinated single service for young carers of Flintshire and the development of the young adult carer service to aid transition from young carer to adult carer services. <p><u>OUTCOME 2 – Opportunities for earning and learning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted support for groups, e.g. our Gypsy Traveller young people have been invited to engage in youth inspector/training programmes by Welsh Government. • Our collaborative work with the URDD has delivered a pop up restaurant project which resulted in six young people gaining part time employment offers. <p><u>OUTCOME 3 – Opportunities to delivery together</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation opportunities for young people within local service change e.g. library consultation programme has demonstrated that Chief Officers have embedded the need to hear young people’s voices in local democracy. • Successful bid to attract funding for the RESILIENCE programme to target support at potential NEET young people. • Delivering differently model evolved to utilise third sector specialist to deliver key elements of our programme. <p><u>OUTCOME 4 – Opportunities to make an impact</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people from the Youth Forum have been fully engaged in recruitment of new staff and have been influential in funding panel decision for the Youth Support Grant. • Ensuring that young people are key to delivering on Annexe B of the
-------------	--

1.06	<p>single integrated plan for Flintshire.</p> <p><u>OUTCOME 5 – Opportunities for engagement and participation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of our Outreach teams by targeted recruitment / training to ensure all young people are able to engage, especially addressing inequalities of opportunity and rural issues. • Ensuring complete compliance with Welsh Government (WG) participation standards as noted in the letter from WG • Ensuring language of choice by embedding and supporting URDD collaborations with our base service offer e.g. our summer camp was held at Glan Llyn with URDD support. <p>Future models:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a National level, we have been presented with four potential models of delivery to consider. We are working with Welsh Government to establish a suitable model for Flintshire service delivery which will fit in to the possible regional future delivery agreed model and will enable us to contribute fully to all national programme outcomes, e.g. Families First, Communities First and Youth Services emerging outcomes framework. • Although different local authorities use different measuring criteria, figures show that there is a wide variation in spending levels by councils, particularly in relation to how funding is allocated to youth services, how the impact on jobs, services and clients is being managed, and the shift in funding to targeted services. Our development programme is ongoing and we are introducing pilot programmes incrementally. • There is a general lack of well-designed studies to evidence effective models, however, there is evidence nationally and internationally - that if commissioned and managed effectively – integrated youth provision models deliver socioeconomic benefits for young people, their families, their communities and the taxpayer. The role of volunteers needs to grow to deliver our outcomes and we need to ensure that we deliver earlier interventions in a way that is most cost-effective and sustainable. • We will ensure that the service remains as open access and has a range of access points that offer well defined pathways to targeted and specialist support as needed in a step up and step down model.
------	--

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The IYP has been resourced and supported by significant Management delayering. The Senior Youth Officer and two Youth Service Managers have resigned or taken redundancy and the capacity within Youth Justice has

	been reduced by two managers. The savings in senior staffing have been significant but the delivery model is currently sustaining service demands.
--	--

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Elected Members have been engaged in our interactive workshop to enable understanding of our universal, targeted and specialist approaches being planned. Our Welsh language expert partners have been fully involved to ensure equality and to enhance engagement in the forthcoming URDD Eisteddfod in May 2016. (Appendix 3 Member workshop held in November 2014)

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	A key risk to delivery of the Families First area is the lack of assurance on continuation of the programme past March 2017. This is being mitigated by robust reporting of outcomes to Welsh Government leads. The Youth Justice funding element has suffered an in year 10% reduction which is being managed by rationalising services. A key risk to Youth Services delivery is the inability to increase our staff base in the face of increasing service need. However, our creative partnerships with the third sector and our utilisation of staff across portfolios are mitigating this risk and challenging perceptions for delivery.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<i>A scanned version of the Delivering Together report document is embedded within this report and hard copies will be available at scrutiny.</i> Appendix 1 - WG Feedback letter to Ian Budd and IYP Youth Support Grant participation feedback. Appendix 2 - Reductions in management and staffing costs diagram from member workshop November 2014. Appendix 3 - Member workshop report November 2014

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National Youth Service Strategy (Welsh Government 2013)</i> • <i>Child Poverty Strategy (Welsh Government 2011)</i> • <i>Families First in Flintshire Programme Overview (Feb 2013)</i> • <i>Children and Young People First (Welsh Government 2014)</i> • <i>A living language: A language for living, Welsh Government 2010</i> • <i>Our Healthy Future – Working paper 1 Welsh Government (2009)</i>

	<p>Contact Officer: Ann Roberts Senior Manager Integrated Youth Provision (IYP)</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 704112</p> <p>E-mail: ann.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk</p>
--	---

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Child Poverty Strategy – Welsh Government strategic document (2011)</p> <p>CAMHS – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (BCUHB)</p> <p>Delivering Together - The Flintshire strategic plan for the IYP</p> <p>Families First Programme – National programme for child poverty</p> <p>Integrated Youth Provision – new collaborative service</p> <p>NEET – Not in Education, Employment or Training</p> <p>Participation Standards – Welsh Government minimum standards for participation and engagement with and for young people</p> <p>R.B.A. Results Based Accountability™ – Monitoring methodology</p> <p>SORTED – Drug and Alcohol Education Service for young people</p> <p>TAF – Team Around the Family - Coordinated family support</p> <p>TRAC - targets those aged 11-24 who are most at risk of becoming NEET</p> <p>U.N.C.R.C. – United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</p> <p>URDD Eisteddfod - The largest Youth Festival in Europe – bilingual festival to be hosted in Flintshire May 2016.</p> <p>Vulnerable Families - families recognised as being on a scale of vulnerability due to life circumstances.</p> <p>Young Carer – Young person aged 8 - 25 who provides care to a family member for reasons relating to age, disability, health, substance misuse and mental illness.</p> <p>Youth Engagement Progression Framework - Welsh Government (2014) five tier model of engagement in framework implementation plan.</p>

Is-adran Dyfodol Tecach/Fairer Futures Division
Yr Adran Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau /Department for Local
Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ian Budd
Chief Officer
Flintshire County Council
County Hall,
Mold
Flinthsire
CH7 6NB

26 June2015

Dear Ian

Following on from our meeting on 17June, I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you and you colleagues for taking the time to meet with us.

We were very pleased with the level of pro-active commitment to participation demonstrated in Flintshire and particularly with the level of engagement now evident at a strategic level, most notably with Members and Chief Officers. You have a very strong, very active Youth Forum that are involved in decision making across the County and it was clear that the staff and members are very passionate and dedicated to their work.

There were many excellent examples of good practice demonstrated at our meeting and we feel confident that you are meeting the requirements as set out in Annex B of the statutory guidance. All of the issues raised in the first meeting have now been addressed and we look forward to revisiting you in 12 months to see how much further you have moved on.

Your 'So What?' event which you are planning sounds very exciting and we hope we can be involved on the day.

We will be writing to Aaron separately to thank him for taking part in the discussions.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Evans
Children's Rights Executive Officer

Dan Balkwill
Participation Manager

Is-adran Dyfodol Tecach/Fairer Futures Division
Yr Adran Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau /Department for Local
Government and Communities



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Aaron Hamilton
Flintshire Youth Forum

26 June 2015

Dear Aaron

Following on from our meeting with you on 17 June I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to meet with us.

It was clear that the work that you have been doing is greatly appreciated and your colleagues in Flintshire CC are obviously very proud to have you as a member of their Youth Forum.

It was great to hear how you spoke on behalf of the travellers without being asked and how this has benefitted others and is continuing to do so. You should be very proud of yourself.

Thank you again for taking part and good luck with the future.

Yours sincerely

Nicola Evans
Children's Rights Executive Officer



BUDDSODDWYR | INVESTORS
MEWN POBL | IN PEOPLE

Page 32

Welsh Government
C2 Rear
Sarn Mynach
Llandudno Junction
Conwy
LL31 9RZ

Ffôn • Tel 03000625543
Nicola.evans2@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Gwefan • website: www.cymru.gov.uk

From: Youth Work [YouthWork@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK]
Sent: 02/07/2015 10:17 GMT
To: "Ann (Ann_Roberts@flintshire.gov.uk)" <Ann_Roberts@flintshire.gov.uk>; Ann Roberts
Subject: Youth Work Strategy Support Grant Evaluation Feedback - Flintshire - 2014 - 15

Dear Ann

Thank you for your Youth Work Strategy Support Grant evaluation form for 2014/15.

Please find below the feedback from the team:

- Great to see such a varied and wide range of projects that have been made available for young people.
- Great to see specialist projects available for targeted groups of young people.
- Wide range of outputs and outcomes have been achieved.

Kind regards

Emma Hughes

Youth Work Information Officer // Swyddog Gwybodaeth Strategaeth Gwaith Ieuenctid Skills Policy and Youth Engagement (SPYE) // Is-adran Polisi Sgiliau & Ymgysylltu Ieuenctid Department for Education, Skills and Technology // Adran Addysg, Sgiliau a Technoleg
Tel // Ffon - 0300 062 5640
E-mail // E-bost – YouthWork@Wales.GSI.Gov.UK // emma.hughes2@Wales.gsi.gov.uk
Welsh Government. B3 Front - Sarn Mynach, Llandudno Junction, LL31 9RZ // Llywodraeth Cymru. B3 Blaen - Sarn Mynach, Cyffordd Llandudno, LL31 9RZ

On leaving the Government Secure Intranet this email was certified virus free. Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes. Wrth adael Mewnwyd Ddiogel y Llywodraeth nid oedd unrhyw feirws yn gysylltiedig â'r neges hon. Mae'n ddigon posibl y bydd unrhyw ohebiaeth drwy'r GSi yn cael ei logio, ei monitro a/neu ei chofnodi yn awtomatig am resymau cyfreithiol.

This page is intentionally left blank

STAFFING CHANGES YOUTH SERVICES 2013/14 – 14/15

	2013	2014	% age + or -
Management Posts	3	1/2	-83%
SNR Youth Workers	4	3	-25%
Youth Workers (Y.W) (F.T.E)	5 ½	3 ½	-36%
Part Time Youth Workers (F.T.E)	7.2	8	+11.1%
Total Youth Workers (F.T.E)	16.7	14.5	-13%
Sessions per week	37 ½	41	+9.75%
Staffed Sessions per week	89	99	+12%
Contacts per F.T.E. Y.W.	1054	1136	+7.8%
Staff Costs (exe admin)	£675 k	£449 k	-33.5%

If you have any questions or queries on the methodology used to obtain these figures please contact Mick Holt –07786126898.

This page is intentionally left blank

Members Workshop Alyn and Deeside Room 9th December 2014

FLINTSHIRE INTEGRATED YOUTH PROVISION
Flintshire Youth Services and Youth Justice Service
2014 - 2018

"Delivering Together"



"All Flintshire young people will be supported to be safe, healthy, reach their potential and be free from disadvantage and inequalities of opportunity"



Our interactive workshop for our elected members in Flintshire was provided by the Integrated Youth Provision / Youth Services team for Flintshire.

The session was led by the Integrated Youth Provision managers, area workers and all the team, including young modern apprentice staff. All attendees fully engaged in the delivery to familiarise the elected members with the "Delivering Together" plan, (2014 – 2018).

The session was well attended by members and the Chief Officer for Education and Youth also fully engaged in the delivery.

The workshop provided an opportunity for the invited members, officers from F.L.V.C. and the URDD, and the Chief Officer to observe and listen to the recent progression of the Youth Services and Youth Justice departments. The session explained the history of the services the current position and the future aims for joint delivery.

The exercise pictured below explained how we considered all the National drivers and strategic lead documents within all our planning. This very visual and hands on exercise offered the opportunity for members to have a visual journey of the strategic frameworks.

The session also visually explained the next steps for the future, giving everyone a clear understanding of what the departments will aim to achieve over a four year timescale, and how this will align to changing strategic needs.

Distance travelled table exercise

Questions were asked by members and fully answered by managers, staff and invited leads from F.L.V.C. and Urdd Gobaith Cymru.



The image on the left displays the strategic journey and how our plan will work within strategic needs.

We used these images to interpret a visual big picture of the strategic needs.

Staffing Changes Youth Services 2013-2014

	2013	2014	Change
Management Posts	3	1 1/2	-83%
SVR Youth workers	4	3	-25%
Youth workers (FTE) (SFT)	5 1/2	3 1/2	-36%
Part time Youth workers (SFT)	72	8	-11.1%
Total Youth workers (SFT)	16.7	11.5	-13%
Placements per week	37 1/2	41	+9.75%
Cost savings per week	89	99	+12%
Costs per F.T.E. Y.w.	1054	1136	+7.82%
Y.P. Costs (excl admin)	£675K	£449K	-33.5%

The area workers produced a visual chart which was presented in a lively interactive way to clearly demonstrate the significant savings achieved within the service over the past nine months.

This method showed figures, percentages and savings in a clear, understandable and simple format.

By delivering this message in this simple format we ensured that all were fully informed and the member commented how effective this method was to impart detailed budget savings.

We were able to clearly demonstrate how we have made significant savings and achieved two voluntary redundancies and yet increased our face to face customer focussed work for the benefit of our young people in Flintshire.

ON THE GROUND DELIVERY

Our model is a windscreen model as demonstrated below.

The interactive exercise enabled us to use a large floor area to re create a training exercise held with all staff recently to engage them in the model. The fun colourful exercise was explained to the members who fully engaged with the model and commented on how this visual technique had enabled them to see how our services could and should be delivered in this step up / step down model.

The members commented that it gave them insight in to how young people would see the model delivered on the ground as universal, targeted and specialist provision. The feedback was positive and enabled a clear understanding of what the plan has as aims and who is accountable for provision.



A quote by our modern trainee

"The members workshop was a great way for the Council Members to understand what the Integrated Plan is all about, and how we all work together to support young people. I really enjoyed being able to work with staff and members in a group setting, the members asked me questions directly and I was able to answer as we had prepared the session as a team"

A quote by Youth Services Management

"Engaging all the staff and partners in the preparation and actual delivery of the session meant that members could engage in the workshops and ask any of us questions, which demonstrated that we are all engaged in delivering the model"

Many thanks to all for attending and engaging in the session.

Diolch yn fawr.

Ann Roberts Youth Services Manager and Families First Lead.

FLINTSHIRE INTEGRATED YOUTH PROVISION
Flintshire Youth Services and Youth Justice Service
2014 - 2018
"Delivering Together"



"All Flintshire young people will be supported to be safe, healthy, reach their potential and be free from disadvantage and inequalities of opportunity"





EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 17 th September, 2015
Report Subject	Quarter 1 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report
Portfolio Holder	Cabinet Member for Corporate Management
Report Author	Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Improvement Plan 2015/16 was adopted by the Council in June 2015. This report presents the monitoring of progress for the first quarter of 2015/16 focusing on the areas of under performance relevant to the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

This report is an exception based report and therefore detail focuses on the areas of under-performance.

RECOMMENDATION

1	That the Committee consider the 2015/16 Quarter 1 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report, highlight concerns and feedback details of any challenge to the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee which is responsible for the overview and monitoring of performance.
---	--

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORTS
1.01	The Improvement Plan monitoring report gives an explanation of the progress being made towards the delivery of the impacts set out in the 2015/16 Improvement Plan. The narrative is supported by performance indicators and/or milestones which evidence achievement. In addition, there is an assessment of the strategic risks and the level to which they are controlled.
1.02	The detailed sub-priority reports, shown at Appendix 1, are in a new format, which has been generated from the new performance management solution, CAMMS.
1.03	<p>CAMMS has been purchased to provide benefits which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • efficiencies by reducing duplication and data entry; • a single version of the truth; • improved visibility and accountability for performance and programme / project management objectives; including an audit trail; and • dynamic, exception based reporting with dashboards and standard reports.
1.04	During the process of setting the Improvement Plan into CAMMS, some changes were required/requested by officers. A log of all changes made can be found at Appendix 2.
1.05	<p>Analysis of performance against the Improvement Plan measures is undertaken using the RAG (Red, Amber and Green) status. This is defined as follows:-</p> <p><u>Performance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RED – equates to a position of under-performance against target. • AMBER – equates to a mid-position where improvement may have been made but performance has missed the target. • GREEN – equates to a position of positive performance against target. <p><u>Outcome</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RED – equates to a forecast position of under-performance against target at year end. • AMBER – equates to a forecast mid-position where improvement may have been made but performance will miss target at year end. • GREEN – equates to a forecast position of positive performance against target at year end.
1.06	The high level (RED) risk area identified for the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee, is as follows:-

1.06.1	<p>Priority: Skills and Learning (Apprenticeships and Training) <i>PI: The percentage of young people above school age in the youth justice system that are offered 25 hours education, training or employment (ETE) - Target 40% - Actual 33%</i></p> <p>This cohort comprises those children or young people (CYP) whose statutory order ended in the quarter. Lack of progress has been shaped by a number of factors: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small cohort size; improvements in most cases can be offset where a single case lacks progress. • The characteristics of the cohort; all cases evidence significant patterns of disengagement and disruption with ETE settings over many years, including exclusions in some cases. It can take time to achieve improvements in conduct/attitude. • Availability of offers; current decommissioning of some arrangements whilst others are being developed (due to commence September 2015). <p>In addition to the new arrangements, improved Youth Justice Service (YJS) recording and referral activities should also mitigate against sustained low performance. The YJS Management Board is monitoring progress in this target area.</p> <p>For young people in the secure estate, improved partnership with Werrington Youth Offenders Institute (YOI) and the implementation of protected education packages will support identification and sustainability of offers.</p>
1.06.2	<p>Priority: Skills & Learning (Modernised and High Performing Education) <i>Risk: Limited funding to address the backlog of known repair and maintenance works in Education and Youth assets will be further reduced to meet new pressures on the Education and Youth Budgets</i></p> <p>School Modernisation remains a key tool in enabling the Authority to invest appropriately in its school portfolio. This will involve a reduction in schools within the Council's portfolio (therefore reducing the backlog) and a reduction of unfilled places.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
-------------	------------------------------

2.01	There are no specific financial implications for this report; however the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan is aligned to resource the priorities of the Improvement Plan.
------	---

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
-------------	---

3.01	The Chief Officer Team and the Performance Leads from across the Authority have contributed to help shape the new approach to reporting.
------	--

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Progress against the risks identified in the Improvement Plan have been reported on for quarter 1 and the detail is included in the report at Appendix 1.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Quarter 1 Improvement Plan Progress Report.
5.02	Appendix 2 – Log of changes to the Improvement Plan 2015/16.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p><u>Improvement Plan 2015/16</u></p> <p>http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Council-and-Democracy/Improvement-Plan.aspx</p> <p>Contact Officer: Ceri Shotton Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 702350</p> <p>Email: ceri.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Improvement Plan – the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan.
7.02	CAMMS – is an integrated planning, risk management and programme/project management and reporting software. It was purchased in April 2015 and work to commence implementation began in Mat; focusing initially on the Council’s Improvement Plan and the Portfolio of Social Services. The link below provides further information about CAMMS. http://cammsgroup.com/
7.03	Werrington Youth Offenders Institute (YOI): based in Staffordshire, this institute provides specialist custodial places for young people aged 15 - 18.
7.04	School Modernisation: the process by which the Local Authority ensures there are a sufficient number of high quality school places, of the right type in the right locations.



Improvement Plan Progress Report for the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee Quarter 1 2015/16

Page 45

Flintshire County Council








4 Skills and Learning

4.1 Improving learning provision and opportunities to achieve better learner outcomes

4.1.1 Apprenticeships and Training

ACTIONS


ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %	PROGRESS RAG	OUTCOME RAG
4.1.1.1 Work with the public, private and voluntary sectors to maximise the number of apprenticeships, traineeships and work experience opportunities, communicated through the Common Application Process (CAP)	Jeanette Rock - Principal Education Officer Inclusion	In Progress	01-Apr-2015	31-Mar-2016	40.00%	 AMBER	 AMBER
<p>ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS: Through the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, officers are continuing to track and support young people who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. Regular liaison with partners has secured access to a range of provision around work related skill development for the identified young people and this has supported engagement with suitable outcomes such as traineeships and enhanced work experience packages. IOSH Managing Safely Training has been provided to secondary schools and Inclusion staff to enable them to identify and vet appropriate work experience packages. It is envisaged that this will lead to increased opportunities within this area. Information regarding opportunities within Flintshire has been fed into the Common Application Process (CAP), a system operated through Careers Wales. This has been run as a pilot and is under review, the outcome of which will direct future activity in relation to how this is taken forward. Last Updated: 19-Aug-2015</p>							
ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %	PROGRESS RAG	OUTCOME RAG
4.1.1.2 Increase training and apprenticeship opportunities for local people through our major capital programmes (WHQS and SHARP).	Tony Jones - Capital Works Team Manager	In Progress	01-Apr-2015	31-Mar-2016	10.00%	 AMBER	 GREEN
<p>ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS: The Flintshire academy concept has been designed and awaiting comments / approval from committees before implementation. Last Updated: 10-Aug-2015</p>							

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %	PROGRESS RAG	OUTCOME RAG
4.1.1.3 Support the Young Entrepreneur Programme with the Flintshire Business Entrepreneurship Network.	Sharon Jones - Communities First Cluster Delivery Manager East	In Progress	01-Apr-2015	31-Mar-2016	60.00%		

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:

BEN on track over both CF Clusters. Celebration event planned for September 2015. Total membership is 84. We are supporting the Wrexham BEN to develop their structure, following Good Practice from Flintshire.


Last Updated: 04-Aug-2015

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %	PROGRESS RAG	OUTCOME RAG
4.1.1.4 Support the development of two academies focusing on Retail and Construction for over 18's leading to employment.	Nigel Davies - Communities First Cluster Delivery Manager West	Completed	01-Apr-2015	31-Mar-2016	100.00%		

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:

Launch of the Construction Academy by April 2015 -The Construction and Retail Academies launched January 2015. Due to procurement and commissioning of posts the launch was held back, but an Acting Up post was put in place. The Academy set up previously at Ysgol Maes Hyfred continued with the Academy at Artisans Shop in retail and hospitality. 8 pupils attended with 3 placement at the Artisans shop.




Last Updated: 14-Aug-2015

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %	PROGRESS RAG	OUTCOME RAG
4.1.1.5 Implement the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework for learners in danger of disengaging through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting vocational and employability skills • Enhancing personal support, including coaching, mentoring and help with transition • Increasing the use of release on temporary licence (ROTL) for young people in the youth justice service; to better engage with post-custody education, training and employment prior to release. 	Jeanette Rock - Principal Education Officer Inclusion	In Progress	01-Apr-2015	31-Mar-2016	30.00%		

<p>ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS: Youth Progression Framework Work on implementation of the Youth Engagement & Progression Framework is underway. An appropriate early identification tool (Child Profiling Tool) has been agreed regionally and this will support schools and the LA to identify young people at risk of disengagement and target a range of resources appropriately. Funding for this has been agreed and a timetable of training and implementation is to be developed, to facilitate use of this within the Autumn term 2015. The team of Personal Support staff has been increased through the use of grant funding and they continue to work with the young people identified through the current system. A North Wales regional bid to the European Social Fund has been successful and has secured 3 years' worth of funding for enhanced provision in the form of alternative curriculum opportunities and support for transition. FCC is working in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council and Coleg Cambria to implement this programme known as TRAC. FCC's Engagement Progression Coordinator has developed strong links with local providers and has contributed to the regional procurement framework to secure an appropriate range of provision in line with the needs of young people to be offered through TRAC. Information on existing training opportunities have been collated and this has improved the system of appropriate signposting and access. Where appropriate, providers have been asked to amend and adjust their provision to ensure that it meets individual vocational and employability skill needs. Service specifications between the Youth Justice Board and Werrington are in final draft form. Release On Temporary Licence (ROTL) arrangements with North Wales Youth Offending Teams is being pursued and monitored by the Regional Resettlement and Reintegration Board and nationally by Youth Justice Board Cymru. Last Updated: 19-Aug-2015</p>							

Page 18 of 66

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

TITLE	LEAD OFFICER	SUPPORTING OFFICER	PERIOD TARGET	PERIOD ACTUAL	PROGRESS RAG	PROGRESS COMMENTS
Number of training and apprenticeship opportunities started as a result of the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme contracts	Melville Evans - Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme (SHARP) Programme Manager	N/A	0.00	0.00	 GREEN	Contracts have not yet commenced.
Number of training and apprenticeship opportunities started as a result of the Welsh Housing Quality Standards contracts	Nikki Evans - Senior Manager Council Housing Services	Tony Jones - Capital Works Team Manager	0.90	2.00	 GREEN	
Number of people leaving the Construction Academy with a qualification	Nigel Davies - Communities First Cluster Delivery Manager West	N/A	N/A Baseline 2015/16	14.00		The training in Health and Safety for construction has given participants qualifications in Health and Safety - Asbestos Awareness - Manual



						handling and the CSCS card.
Number of people leaving the Construction Academy with a job	Nigel Davies - Communities First Cluster Delivery Manager West	N/A	N/A Baseline 2015/16	3.00		3 have directly gone into employment.
Number of people leaving the Retail Academy with a qualification	Nigel Davies - Communities First Cluster Delivery Manager West	N/A	N/A Baseline 2015/16	11.00		The Academies Lead Officer role is not currently occupied and covered by an Acting up Officer. 8 Pupils from Maes Hyfred in Flint have attended and received training and a qualification in retail
Number of people leaving the Retail Academy with a job	Nigel Davies - Communities First Cluster Delivery Manager West	N/A	N/A Baseline 2015/16	3.00		The Academy has given skills and opportunity for people to take advantage of local jobs in retail such as at Home Bargains.

RISKS

RISK TITLE	LEAD OFFICER	SUPPORTING OFFICER	INITIAL RATING	CURRENT RATING	PROGRESS COMMENTS
Local employers and learning providers do not work closely enough to identify and meet the skills based needs of the future.	Ian Budd - Chief Officer – Education and Youth	N/A	Amber Moderate (3)	Yellow Minor (2)	Latest annual performance information has Flintshire with the lowest level of young people 16+ not in education, employment or training in Wales.
Training places will not match current and future employer aspirations and needs.	Ian Budd - Chief Officer – Education and Youth	N/A	Amber Moderate (3)	Yellow Minor (2)	There is a continuing need to support our most vulnerable young people to access employment and training and to develop apprenticeship opportunities matched to long term market intelligence on economic development.

4.1.2 Modernised and High Performing Education



ACTIONS

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %	PROGRESS RAG	OUTCOME RAG
4.1.2.1 Working effectively with the Regional School Improvement Service (GwE) to: o share best teaching practice and resources across schools and the region; o identify and target support for those schools most in need; o develop the capacity of schools to respond to national initiatives and curriculum reforms; and o improve skills in literacy and numeracy.	Claire Homard - Principal Education Officer Primary	In Progress	01-Apr-2015	31-Mar-2016	40.00%	 GREEN	 GREEN

ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:

Senior Challenge Adviser is attending a range of Flintshire meetings with Officers, Headteachers and Members by invitation. Regional meeting structure is being redefined by Chief Officer's Group. Meetings of LA Officers with GwE Senior Challenge Adviser are on-going and focus on effective monitoring of schools to identify and target support for schools most in need. GwE are represented at School Standards Monitoring Group meetings. Feedback provided to help development of regional model document for LA/School Partnership Agreements. Awaiting final version. GwE Senior Challenge Adviser has taken over the administration and leadership of Secondary Forums from the LA. GwE have also organised regional conferences to share best practice. New Foundation Phase Profile Train the Trainers event held 2nd June. Six training events were then planned for June to cover all schools. Pupil portfolio Referral Unit (PPRU) Post Inspection Action Plan has been drafted. Discussions held with GwE on need for support for PPRU resulted in GwE advertising for a Challenge Adviser to fulfil this need in the new school year. Work on Literacy and numeracy is developing as GwE look to use Challenge Advisers to identify schools in need of support and then group them together to more effectively target intervention at these schools.

Last Updated: 04-Aug-2015

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %	PROGRESS RAG	OUTCOME RAG
4.1.2.2 Reducing the impact of poverty and disadvantage, including through the Families First Programme (2015-17) and Flintshire's Integrated Youth Services Strategy, (2014-18), "Delivering Together"	Ann Roberts - Families First Lead / Youth Services Manager	In Progress	01-Apr-2015	31-Mar-2016	70.00%	 GREEN	 GREEN



ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:

The Flintshire Families First Programme (2015-2017) continues to deliver on the outcomes for the Child Poverty Strategy (WG, 2011) and has re-commissioned in July 2015, to ensure that delivery is focussed on the areas of evidenced need and that it targets those families who are furthest from education and employment opportunities. The evidence based collaborative approach has enabled bespoke commissioning of projects to maximise the full grant for effective impact for poverty mitigation and reduction. Welsh Government review and monitor the delivery and have returned a positive evaluation statement and supported the innovative commissioning plans. The Youth Support Service Plan (Delivering Together 2014- 2018) has a collaborative approach to delivery of universal entitlement for all 11-25 year olds, with a focus on engagement, participation, informal learning and accreditation. It offers preventative approaches to enable young people to have learning and earning opportunities to mitigate the effects of poverty, improve financial literacy and build resilience and coping skills to minimise the NEET (Not in Education Employment or Training) population in Flintshire. It also supports our young parents population by offering parenting courses and enabling supported learning opportunities. The Families First and Delivering Together programmes also enhance workforce development opportunities for our future potential workforce by encouraging volunteering, work placements and accreditation.

Regional agreement across North Wales has been secured regarding the use of the child profile tool to identify young people between 11 and 19 who are at risk of disengagement. This tool is an integral part of the ONE data base which links SIMS (School Management Information System) used in schools. Negotiations are underway in terms of purchase cost and training requirements. Once identified young people will be signposted in to a range of intervention strategies to support continued engagement including enhanced personal support and alternative curriculum opportunities. FCC was a successful partner in a regional bid for European Social Fund to support the additional provision for Autumn term 2015.

Work with key partners engaged in the Integrated Youth Service plan "Delivering Together" has ensured that young people are not unnecessarily brought in to the Youth Justice System. The Youth Justice Bureau approach has been introduced and its work has developed to ensure appropriate diversionary approaches are taken resulting in significant reduced re-offending rates. Sub Regional (Flintshire and Wrexham) Scrutiny Partnership is evolving to review effective decision making based around regionally agreed criteria.



Last Updated: 05-Aug-2015

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %	PROGRESS RAG	OUTCOME RAG
4.1.2.3 Improving outcomes for Looked After Children and young people exiting the Youth Justice System	Chris Clarke - Youth Justice Service Manager	In Progress	01-Apr-2015	31-Mar-2016	25.00%	 AMBER	 GREEN


ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS:


1. Regional Looked After Children (LAC) action Plan generated by GwE and being implemented
- 3 & 4 Symud Ymlaen have promoted service across YJS and Children's Services. Referral Packs available to staff and individual training and development plans being initiated with young people. Youth Justice Service confirmed 8 referrals and 4 young people actively engaged in training
5. Restorative Justice pilot sites identified though long term staff absence likely to impact upon delivery. Financial constraints and single practitioner in role unlikely to support replacement/cover
6. Regional LAC Action Plan - Launch planning scheduled for July 15
9. Trauma/Attachment training delivered to key professionals including Youth Justice Service (YJS) and education staff- implementation of appropriate strategies in order to improve outcomes for learners and young people presenting with >5 convictions in 24 month period (YJS)

Last Updated: 04-Aug-2015



ACTION	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	STATUS	START DATE	END DATE	COMPLETE %	PROGRESS RAG	OUTCOME RAG
4.1.2.4 Developing and implementing a plan for the next phase of Schools Modernisation, including continuing to implement the 21st Century School (Band A) programme.	Damian Hughes - Programme Manager 21st Century Schools	In Progress	01-Apr-2015	31-Mar-2016	50.00%	 GREEN	 GREEN
<p>ACTION PROGRESS COMMENTS: Implementation plan for the next stage of School Modernisation approved by Cabinet in June 2015. Band A projects at Connah's Quay (Post 16) and Holywell Learning Campus approved by Welsh Government. Construction projects have started on site and currently are on time and within budget. Anticipated completion date September 2016. Last Updated: 06-Aug-2015</p>							





PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

TITLE	LEAD OFFICER	SUPPORTING OFFICER	PERIOD TARGET	PERIOD ACTUAL	PROGRESS RAG	PROGRESS COMMENTS
The percentage of young people above school age in the youth justice system that are offered 25 hours ETE	Chris Clarke – Youth Justice Manager	Louisa Greenly – Performance Management & Information Officer	40.00%	33.00%	 RED	This cohort comprises those children or young people (CYP) whose statutory order ended in the quarter. Lack of progress with respect to the offer of education has been shaped by a number of factors- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small size of the cohort - improvements in most cases can be offset where a single case lacks of progress. 2. Cohort characteristics - the cohort presents with complex needs and all cases evidence significant patterns of disengagement and disruption with ETE setting over many years including exclusions in some cases. This impacts upon what can be offered with a realistic likelihood of success. Transfer between schools is often timely with a CYP expected to evidence substantial improvements in conduct/attitude and performance after lengthy periods on zero or minimum hours of ETE. This is often unrealistic when considered against the individual characteristics which may include trauma, attachment issues and often parental mental

						<p>health and substance misuse concerns</p> <p>3. Availability of offers - Following the decommissioning of Time 4 Change and the current development of TRAC and College Cambria enhanced offers to learners at risk of NEET there is a paucity of resources available for the complex CYP represented in this cohort.</p> <p>TRAC and College Cambria initiatives will come on-line later in 2015. Improved Youth Justice System (YJS) recording and referral activities should also mitigate against sustained low performance. The YJS Management Board is monitoring progress in this target area. With respect to young people in the secure estate, improved partnership with Werrington Youth Offenders Institute (YOI) and the implementation of 60/40 protected education packages will support identification of offers and sustainability in the community.</p>
the percentage of young people above school age in the youth justice system that are offered 16+ ETE	Chris Clarke – Youth Justice Manager	Louisa Greenly – Performance Management & Information Officer	55.00%	60.00%	 GREEN	This cohort comprises those young people whose statutory order ended in the quarter.

RISKS

RISK TITLE	LEAD OFFICER	SUPPORTING OFFICER	INITIAL RATING	CURRENT RATING	PROGRESS COMMENTS
Schools do not receive and/or make best use of the support they need from the Council and GwE	Ian Budd - Chief Officer – Education and Youth	Claire Homard - Principal Education Officer Primary	 Moderate (3)	 Moderate (3)	GwE Challenge Advisers make regular visits to schools. Regular meetings of LA Officers with GwE Senior Challenge Adviser facilitate a review of those schools least likely to make good use of the support available.

<p>Numbers of school places will not be sufficient to meet the future demands of changing demographics</p>	<p>Ian Budd - Chief Officer – Education and Youth</p>	<p>Damian Hughes - Programme Manager 21st Century Schools</p>	<p> Major (4)</p>	<p> Moderate (3)</p>	<p>The likelihood of not having enough spaces in schools overall is low, however there may be pressures in particular locations and phases as demographics change.</p> <p>Currently there are in excess of 4000 unfilled places in the school estate, doing nothing, will have a negative effect on school financial allocations and raise pupil teacher ratios.</p>
<p>Limited funding to address the backlog of known repair and maintenance works in Education and Youth assets will be further reduced to meet new pressures on the Education and Youth Budgets</p>	<p>Ian Budd - Chief Officer – Education and Youth</p>	<p>Damian Hughes - Programme Manager 21st Century Schools</p>	<p> Major (4)</p>	<p> Major (4)</p>	<p>School Modernisation remains a key tool in enabling the Authority to invest appropriately in its school portfolio, this will involve a reduction in schools within the Council's portfolio and a reduction of unfilled places.</p>

Corrections / Amendments to Improvement Plan 2015/16 following Council approval**Improvement Plan:**

Page	Detail	Correction / Amendment
11	The impact for the Safeguarding sub-priority was missing: 'Ensuring adults, young people and children are safeguarded'.	Correction
11	The impact for the sub-priorities Business Sector Growth and Town and Rural Regeneration were incorrectly stated as 'Enabling more people to live independently and well at home' but should have read 'Creating jobs and growing the local economy'.	Correction
11	The impact for the sub-priority Transport Infrastructure and Services was incorrectly stated as 'Helping people to access employment, local services and facilities' but should have read 'Safely accessing employment, local services and facilities'.	Correction
11	The impact for the sub-priority Sustainable Development and Environmental Management was incorrectly stated as 'Developing and protecting the environment' but should have read 'Environmental development which maximises social and economic benefits'.	Correction
11	The impact for the sub-priority Developing Communities was incorrectly stated as 'Supporting communities to be resilient' but should have read 'Supporting communities to become more resilient'.	Correction
11	The impact for the sub-priority Improving Resource Management was incorrectly stated as 'Supporting front line services to perform well whilst being efficient' but should have read 'Front line services are efficiently and effectively supported'.	Correction
12	Sub-priority: Appropriate and Affordable Housing A measure to increase the number of gifted new homes using the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was included under activity 2 (stimulate the growth of affordable housing). This has been amended as the CIL cannot be introduced until the LDP is adopted and this is approximately 3 years away. The measure has been changed to 'Increasing the numbers of gifted new homes using Section 106 Planning Agreement'.	Amendment
14	Sub-priority: Independent Living A measure to monitor care home inspection reports under the activity 'Ensure Care Home Provision within Flintshire enables people to live well and have a good quality of life', has been amended to reflect the monitoring of care homes, which will be undertaken through existing	Amendment

	contract monitoring arrangements.	
14	Sub-priority: Independent Living The milestone to evaluate the impact of the pilot project being undertaken with Age Concern 'Listening Voices' should have read 'Listening Friends'.	Correction
15	Sub-priority: Integrated Community Social & Health Services The four risks for this sub-priority have been amalgamated into two: (1) Funding between Health and the Council does not transfer smoothly e.g. CHC, ICF, Primary Care Funds (2) Service Provision is not coordinated / integrated	Amendment
21	Sub-priority: Safe Communities The risk 'New Community Safety Partnership arrangements will not be effective enough to fully deliver its priorities' has been reworded for clarity to 'Grant funded services that are administered through the Community Safety Partnership are not delivered effectively'.	Amendment
22	Sub-priority: Poverty A measure to increase the number of <i>parents</i> receiving an enhanced Health service, under the activity 'Help children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty achieve their potential', should have read <i>children</i> .	Correction
25	Sub-priority: Sustainable Development & Environmental Management The risk 'The necessary planning approvals are not secured' has been amended for clarity to 'The necessary planning approval for the waste transfer station is not secured'.	Amendment
25	Sub-priority: Sustainable Development & Environmental Management The risk 'Recycling and energy efficiency programmes are not supported by the public and employees' has been amended removing the reference to energy efficiency programmes as they have a good response.	Amendment
27	Sub-priority: Improving Resource Management The measures under the activity 'Optimise purchasing efficiencies through the use of regional and national procurement collaborations and through the increased use of electronic solutions' were incorrect and related to alternative delivery models. They should have read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating efficiencies through the use of the regional and national procurement collaborations. • Reducing the cost of procurement through the use of end to end electronic purchasing. 	Correction

Supporting Document (How we measure achievement):

Page	Detail	Correction / Amendment
2	<p>Sub-priority: Appropriate and Affordable Housing The milestone to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) by July 2015 has been deleted. The CIL cannot be introduced until the LDP is adopted and this is approximately 3 years away.</p>	Amendment
3	<p>Sub-priority: Appropriate and Affordable Housing A measure to increase the number of gifted new homes using the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was included under activity 2 (stimulate the growth of affordable housing). This has been amended as the CIL cannot be introduced until the LDP is adopted. The measure has been changed to ‘The number of gifted new homes realized through Section 106 Planning Agreement between the Council, NEW Homes and the developers’.</p>	Amendment
6	<p>Sub-priority: Independent Living The milestone to evaluate the impact of the pilot project being undertaken with Age Concern ‘Listening Voices’ should have read ‘Listening Friends’.</p>	Correction
6	<p>Sub-priority: Independent Living A measure to monitor care home inspection reports has been deleted and replaced with the contract monitoring measures to monitor care homes which are a ‘service of concern’ or deemed to be ‘in escalating concerns’. In addition, the baseline data and targets for both have been confirmed as 3 and 2 respectively.</p>	Amendment
7	<p>Sub-priority: Independent Living The measure referenced ‘SCAM2L’ should have been referenced ‘SCAL/023’.</p>	Correction
12	<p>Sub-priority: Business Sector Growth The roll out of superfast broadband across the county had been included as both a milestone and a measure. It should only have been included as a milestone; measure now deleted.</p>	Correction
14	<p>Sub-priority: Town and Rural Regeneration The milestone ‘72 unit extra care development in Flint by <i>Wales and West</i> to start construction in August 2015’ should have read <i>Pennaf</i>.</p>	Correction
23	<p>Sub-priority: Maximising Income The measure to increase the numbers of <i>parents</i> receiving an enhanced Health service, under the activity ‘Help children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty achieve their potential’, should have read <i>children</i>. In addition, the baseline data (2014/15) should have been 1515 instead</p>	Correction

	of 1236.	
24	Sub-priority: Maximising Income The measure 'amount of additional Social Security and Tax Credits paid to Flintshire residents as a result of the work undertaken by Flintshire County Council', had been duplicated; one now removed.	Correction
26	Sub-priority: Fuel Poverty The target for the measure 'number of private homes receiving energy efficiency measures' had been incorrectly stated as 750. In total the target is for 750 homes to receive measures; 350 private homes and 400 council homes.	Correction
28	Sub-priority: Transport Infrastructure and Services The impact was incorrectly stated as 'People being able to safely access employment, local services and facilities' and should have read 'Safely accessing employment, local services and facilities'.	Correction
32	Sub-priority: Sustainable Development & Environmental Management The milestone for securing planning permission for the introduction of a waste transfer station by July 2015 has been expanded to include reference to its proposed location (Greenfield).	Amendment
34	Sub-priority: Developing Communities A milestone for the development and publishing of a volunteering policy was incorrectly included under the activity 'Ensure community benefit through our commissioning of goods and services. This has now been removed.	Correction
36	Sub-priority: Improving Resource Management The 2015/16 target for the amount of efficiency targets achieved should have been £12.874m in line with the final approved budget, not £10.3m.	Correction

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DATE: **THURSDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2015**

REPORT BY: **EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FACILITATOR**

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY – TASK & FINISH GROUP**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To seek the Committee's views on setting up a Task & Finish Group to review the School Transport Policy.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 In May 2013, Cabinet agreed to change discretionary denominational school transport policy. On 4th December 2014, the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered an update report on progress made on the implementation of the revised school transport policy. During consideration of this report, the Committee resolved to note the update.

2.02 The Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee also considered the School Transport Policy at its meeting held on the 26th March 2015, where the Committee noted the current Policy.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 During the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 9th July, whilst considering the Education and Youth Improvement and Modernisation Strategy 2015-16 a number of questions were raised around Post 16 transport provision.

3.02 During the discussion, Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer proposed that a Task & Finish Group be set up to review the current School Transport Policy. The Committee resolved that:-

- That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee to consider setting up a Task and Finish Group on school transportation.

3.03 A detailed review of the current School Transport Policy is being undertaken by officers within the Education and Youth Portfolio, focusing particularly around discretionary entitlement and costs.

3.03 A copy of the current School Transport Policy is attached at Appendix 1. The Committee is asked to consider whether to set up a Task & Finish Group to review the School Transport Policy.

4.00 RECOMMENDATION

4.01 That the Committee considers whether to set up a Task & Finish Group to review the current School Transport Policy.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None as a result of this report.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 The Member Engagement Manager has responded to being consulted on this report by drawing the committee's attention to paragraph 2.02 of the standard Forward Work Programme covering report which is submitted to all six overview & Scrutiny committees. This reads:

11.02 In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for 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. Is it an area of major change or risk?
3. Are there issues of concern in performance?
4. Is there new Government guidance or legislation?
5. Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators /Internal Audit?

11.03 As has been noted within the report, this issue has already been considered by the committee twice in the past and noted. There is also a detailed review of the current School Transport Policy being undertaken by officers within the Education and Youth Portfolio, focusing particularly around discretionary entitlement and costs. In the circumstances, he has suggested that it would seem premature to set up a task and finish group.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Current School Transport Policy

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

Contact Officer: Ceri Shotton
Telephone: 01352 702305
Email: ceri.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Transport Policy 2014/15

The LA is required to determine whether the provision of transport for pupils of statutory school age is necessary to facilitate the attendance at a designated school of the pupil concerned. If such transport is deemed necessary, then the transport must be provided free of charge.

Statutory transport provision

The LA provides free transport for children of compulsory school age (i.e. 5-16yrs) as follows:-

- where a child receiving primary education lives over two miles from the nearest appropriate school;
- where a child receiving secondary education lives over three miles from the nearest appropriate school.

The LA also provides free transport for pupils of statutory school age

- where the route to school is considered to be hazardous by the LA in consultation with the Environment Directorate;
- where transport to a named school is identified in a pupil's Statement of Special Educational Needs. This would normally be on medical or educational grounds and would be deemed essential in the context of other criteria identified in this policy
- where a child requires transport on medical grounds and no suitable public transport exists;

Other transport provision

Free transport is also provided for pupils of statutory school age:

- where a child whose parents are in receipt of Income Support or Working Tax Credit, resides more than 2.5 miles from the nearest appropriate school;
- to the nearest Welsh medium school under the criteria identified above;
- to the nearest voluntary aided school where the admission to the school is on denominational grounds, subject to the distance criteria. Consultation with individual schools will take place to confirm the admission criteria under which pupils are admitted. Suitable evidence of adherence to the faith of the school such as a baptismal certificate or a letter from a priest may be requested.

Post-16 Transport

Free transport will be provided for post 16 students living in Flintshire attending a first course of full time study at a school or college, subject to meeting the 3 mile distance criteria and providing the student is attending the nearest educational establishment offering the courses they wish to study. Free transport will be provided to specified sites only. These sites are:

- All Secondary School sites within Flintshire offering post-16 courses
- Chester Catholic High School, Coleg Cambria sites at Connah's Quay, Northop, Wrexham and Llysfasi (for land based courses only), Prestatyn High School, Rhyl 6, St Brigid's School, Ysgol Glan Clwyd, St. Asaph.

Transport will only be provided to an educational establishment which is not the nearest if, in the judgement of the LA, there is a considerable variation between the student's course and the course on offer at the nearer institution. The courses should be at a higher level than the previous one: for example GCSE retakes would not normally qualify for assistance.

Free transport after the age of 19

Free transport is provided to eligible students who have reached 16 years of age and have not yet reached the age of 19 on 1st September of the academic year. The free transport will be maintained for students for the length of their initial course even if they reach their 19th birthday before the end of that course.

Concessionary fares

The LA may provide concessionary transport, at a cost, where a pupil/student does not qualify on the above criteria but can be placed on an existing contract transport route which has empty seats. In these circumstances:

- a charge of £55 per term will apply. (This is subject to an annual review)
- concessions may be withdrawn at short notice, with a pro-rata rebate, when seats become unavailable.

However, under the Transport Act 1985, concessionary fares cannot be made available where public service transport runs along a school route at convenient times for the start and finish of the school day.

Application forms for concessionary seats can be obtained on **[www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/ school transport](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/school_transport)** or from the Access Officer, Tel No: 01352 704068.

Pupils/students with learning difficulties/disabilities

Specialised transport will be provided for pupils/students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities when specified in the statement of SEN.

The LA will consider a pupil's special educational needs or disability, irrespective of whether the pupil has a SEN statement, when deciding which is the nearest suitable school. The transport requirements will depend on individual circumstances and each application will be considered on its own merits.

When other factors are identified in the statement, e.g. specialist provision, transport may be provided for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to travel beyond their nearest school/college.

Young people who have severe medical conditions that seriously affect their mobility may be provided with free transport even though they do not meet the distance criteria. In all cases, the request must be supported by medical evidence.

Travelling expenses for parents of pupils placed by a Statement of SEN in schools outside Flintshire

Where such pupils are placed in boarding schools more than 100 miles from home, the LA will assist with travelling expenses for parents to attend the statutory Annual Review meeting, by the most cost effective means of:

- arranging transport, or
- making a cash payment (currently 20p per mile), or
- providing a ticket (or cash equivalent) for one or both parents on public transport

Such assistance will also be given when a pupil who normally travels in a vehicle provided for a group, is unable to travel at the same time as the group because of his/her ill-health. Medical certification will be required.

The LA will not normally assist with travelling expenses for other functions or meetings.

Definition of criteria

Appropriate school criteria

An appropriate school is deemed to be the nearest school which provides education for the relevant age and ability of a pupil, the nearest Welsh medium school or the nearest Voluntary school.

The LA is not responsible for the cost of transport:

- where parental preference results in a pupil being placed in a school or facility other than the nearest appropriate school;
- to schools maintained by other Authorities where admission to those schools is a result of parental preference, unless that school is the nearest school.
The Authority operates arrangements with neighbouring authorities for Flintshire pupils whose nearest appropriate school is outside the Flintshire County boundary;
- of pupils who reside outside Flintshire but who receive their education in Flintshire schools.

Age Criteria

The LA has no legal responsibility to those not deemed entitled to free transport.

- The LA does not provide transport for pupils attending nursery school or nursery classes at the age of three. Transport is provided from the commencement of the school year in which the child attains the age of five.
- The LA currently makes provision for pupils above compulsory school age, who qualify, to be transported free of charge to the nearest appropriate school or college as detailed in the Transport Policy.

Criteria for the Provision of Escorts

An escort may be provided by the Authority for pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need, who qualify for transport under the defined criteria. Provision of escorts will take place after consideration by relevant officers of the individual needs of the pupils or group of pupils and the nature of the transport available.

Applying for School and College Transport

If you consider, using the above criteria, your child may qualify for free school transport you will be required to complete an application form. An application needs to be made at entry to Reception, Secondary and Post-16 and is not retrospective. You will also be required to re-apply should any of your circumstances alter during the period your children attend school, or if your child's course alters. Application forms are available on www.flintshire.gov.uk/schools/schooltransport or from the Access Officer, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire. CH7 6ND (Tel: 01352 704068/704073).

Applications for transport to colleges should be directed to the college concerned (details below). Applications can be made at any time of year although students are recommended to apply at the end of the summer term prior to commencing courses in September.

Mode of Transport

In determining the mode of transport required, the following principles will apply:

- the need for specialist transport;
- the Additional Needs of a pupil as defined in a pupil's statement.

In all cases, the efficient use of resources will dictate the mode of transport (subject to the above conditions). Transport may be provided by means of school contract transport services

or existing public transport services which, together with the type of transport (bus, minibus, train, taxi, etc.) will be dictated by cost effectiveness. In some cases, one contract bus may transport different pupils to more than one school site.

In exceptional circumstances, a cash payment (currently 20p per mile) may be available for transporting pupils who meet all the criteria, if deemed by the LA to be more cost effective.

Collection and Return

Transport will normally be to and from bus stops or pick-up points for groups of pupils. It will only be provided from door-to-door in exceptional circumstances. The maximum distance a pupil is expected to walk to and from pick-up point will depend upon, for example, the age of the child, their individual needs and the nature of the route they are expected to walk.

Travel Behaviour Code

The Welsh Assembly Government has issued a Travel Behaviour Code which is compulsory for all learners up to the age of 19. It applies to all modes of travel to and from education institutions. Learners must comply with the Code whilst travelling to and from their place of learning. Under the Code, travel arrangements may be withdrawn from learners whose behaviour during the journey to or from school or college is not of an acceptable standard.

The driver will, in accordance with the agreed procedure, report any incidents of misbehaviour to the LA and Headteacher of the school concerned. Any such incidents will be investigated and appropriate action taken, if necessary, including suspension from transport.

Smoking on Buses

Smoking is not permitted on any vehicle contracted to the Council for the conveyance of school pupils to and from school. Any pupils found smoking on school or college buses will be reported for disciplinary action to be considered.

Parents have responsibility for:

- getting their child to and from school where they do not qualify for free school transport;
- applying for free transport where their child qualifies;
- informing the LA and the school of changed circumstances which may affect transport;
- ensuring that their child is ready and waiting for transport at the appropriate time and place. It is the parent's responsibility to accompany the child to and from the vehicle;
- ensuring that their child's behaviour while using school transport is acceptable.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DATE: **THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2015**

REPORT BY: **EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FACILITATOR**

SUBJECT: **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education & Youth 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 Cabinet for consultation purposes, or by County Council or Chief Officers. Other possible items are identified from the Cabinet Work Programme and the Strategic Assessment of Risks & Challenges.

2.02 In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for 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. Is it an area of major change or risk?
3. Are there issues of concern in performance?
4. Is there new Government guidance or legislation?
5. Have inspections been carried out? Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators/Internal Audit
6. 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

5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 N/A.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme

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

None.

Contact Officer: Ceri Shotton
Telephone: 01352 702305
Email: ceri.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk

CURRENT FWP

Date of meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible / Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
22 October 2015	School Balances – to include Licensed School Deficits	To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by Flintshire schools at the end of the financial year.	Monitoring Report	Finance Manager	15 October 2015
3 December 2015	Q2 - Mid Year Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports and Chief Officer Performance Report. Learning from the School Performance Monitoring Group (SPMG)	To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring. To receive the annual report on progress and learning from the (SPMG)	Performance Monitoring Monitoring Report	Education & Youth Facilitator Primary Link Officer	26 November 2015
14 January 2016	Self-evaluation on education services	To update Members on overall service performance.	Performance Monitoring	Head of Inclusion Service	7 January 2016

25 February 2016	Learner Outcomes – include attendance and exclusions in annual learner outcomes report	To provide Members with a summary of learner outcomes across primary and secondary school.	Performance Monitoring	Chief Officer Education & Youth	18 February 2016
24 March 2016	Quarter 3 – Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports	To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Performance Monitoring	Education & Youth Facilitator	17 March 2016
28 April 2016	Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE) Improvement Plan 2016/17	To receive an update on progress with the development of the regional school effectiveness and improvement service, to include a presentation from the Chief Officer of GwE. To consult with the Committee on the Improvement Plan 2016/17	Performance Monitoring	Chief Officer Education & Youth	21 April 2016
9 June 2016	Q4 – Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports and Chief Officer Performance Report.	To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Performance Monitoring	Education & Youth Facilitator	2 June 2016

7 July 2016					30 June 2016
--------------------	--	--	--	--	---------------------

INFORMATION REPORTS TO BE CIRCULATED TO THE COMMITTEE

Item	Purpose of information report	Month
Incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire schools	Information reports on incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire schools	March
Health & Safety in Schools	Information report on accidents during the academic year and the actions taken to support schools in achieving healthy and safe environment	December

Suggested Venues for future meetings

- Hawarden High School
- Sychdyn Primary School
- Southdown Primary School
- Ysgol Y Felin, Holywell

REGULAR ITEMS

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
	School Modernisation	To update Members on the progress made with School Modernisation	Chief Officer Education and Youth
January	Self-evaluation on education services	To update Members on overall service performance	Senior Manager – Inclusion & Progression
February	Learner Outcomes – include attendance and exclusions in annual learner outcomes report	To provide Members with a summary of learner outcomes across primary and secondary school	Chief Officer Education and Youth
April	Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)	To receive an update on progress with the development of the regional school effectiveness and improvement service, to include a presentation from the Chief Officer of GwE.	Chief Officer Education and Youth
November	School Balances	To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by Flintshire schools at the end of the financial year	Finance Manager
Annually	Learning from the School Performance Monitoring Group (SPMG)	To receive the annual report on progress and learning from the SPMG	Senior Manager – School Improvement

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted - Not for Publication

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted - Not for Publication

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted - Not for Publication

This page is intentionally left blank