

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **THURSDAY, 19 JUNE 2014**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER, EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

SUBJECT: **EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT & MODERNISATION STRATEGY**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To update members on the draft Education Improvement & Modernisation Strategy and how it supports the Council Plan 2014-15 for “Modernised and High Performing Education”

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 In 2013-14 the School Improvement Strategy supported the Council Plan for Modernised and High Performing Education through the identification of the following priorities as the key areas for planning across all phases:

- Raising standards by improving skills in Literacy and Numeracy and their application across the curriculum
- Raising educational attainment by reducing the impact of poverty and disadvantage
- Raising standards through collaborative working, and improving curriculum continuity and effective transition
- Raising standards by transforming teaching and learning through effective use of new technologies
- Improving opportunities for learners by developing more effective Work Focused Education and Education Business Partnerships

2.02 Progress on these priorities was reported to Scrutiny in April.

2.03 In 2014-15 elements of the previous Council Plan “Places of Modernised Learning” have been incorporated into the plan for Modernised and High Performing Education to create just the one coordinated plan for the Education area.

2.04 The new plan identifies the following priorities for planning across all phases of education in 2014-15:

- Improving skills in literacy and numeracy;
- Reducing the impact of poverty and disadvantage (including the impact on Looked After Children);

- Sharing best teaching practice and resources across schools and the region;
- Improving the preparation of young people for the work place;
- Continuing the implementation of 21st Century Schools programme;
- Continuing to implement the School Modernisation Strategy including review of assets and Primary and Secondary School Organisation;
- Strengthening collaborative work between schools to improve curriculum continuity and facilitate additional delegation of responsibility and resources;
- Raising standards through effective use of new technologies;
- Ensuring best quality educational support during implementation of the national model for regional working;

2.05

This list of priorities involves officers working in partnership with schools, neighbouring authorities and the Regional School Improvement Service (GwE).

2.06

Examples of how achievement within these priority areas will be measured include:

- Outcomes in Mathematics, English/Welsh 1st Language and Core Subject Indicator at all Key Stages
- Percentage of learners achieving 5 or more A* to C passes at GCSE or the vocational equivalent
- Raising standards achieved by learners who are entitled to free school meals
- Improving governance and financial resilience in schools
- Reduction of surplus places
- Completion of 21st Century school milestones in line with target dates

2.07

The draft Education Improvement & Modernisation Strategy has been produced by the group of Principal Officers and identifies a wide range of outcomes and targets which are agreed with schools, monitored and reported to members in various reports annually.

2.08

For each of the priorities identified in 2.04 above, the Education Improvement and Modernisation Strategy identifies the underlying actions that will be taken by the authority and its partners in these areas to achieve the overall aim of improving learner outcomes and wellbeing.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01

Members will be aware of the development of regional working in recent years and of the continued growth of this that is anticipated as the recommendations within the National Model for School Improvement Services are implemented. The effect is that the team

of officers within the authority is much reduced, hence the focus on influencing development rather than creating change through the work of authority employed and directed teams as in the past.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That members note receipt of this report and the Draft Education Improvement and Modernisation Strategy.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are no direct financial implications in the receipt of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 Members will note the priority to reduce the educational impact of poverty and disadvantage and the aim to achieve better learning outcomes, and wellbeing for all children and young people regardless of their socioeconomic background.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None within the receipt of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 Targets are included for two sets of learners who perform less well than is average for the full cohort. These are boys and learners entitled to Free School Meals.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 There are no direct Personnel Implications arising from this report, however individual projects will have to be assessed for delivery capacity.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 A process of consultation with representatives of schools and other organisations named within the document is undertaken before the draft status is removed from the document.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 The process identified in 10.01 has been initiated

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix A - Education Improvement & Modernisation Strategy

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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