

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **THURSDAY 26TH MARCH, 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (EDUCATION & YOUTH)**

SUBJECT: **EDUCATION FOR ALL**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To advise Members regarding the proposed activity to improve outcomes for pupils and maintain a higher number of placements within Flintshire's mainstream settings.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Education Other Than at School (EOTAS) refers to children and young people who receive their education outside of schools funded by Welsh local authorities, for example, in independent provision or pupil referral units and those who are electively home educated.

2.02 The WG Statistical Release (2013/14) for Pupils Educated Other Than at School indicates that Flintshire County Council has the highest rate of 5.7 per 1000 pupils as compared with the Welsh average of 2.6. Numbers increase significantly within the secondary sector, in particular in Year 11.

2.03 Comparison of Flintshire pupils' outcomes at KS4 suggests that pupils who do not maintain their school placements do not achieve in line with their peers against key indicators (See Appendix 1).

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Activities have been undertaken with headteachers and school-based staff to identify the presenting difficulties which result in children and young people failing to maintain their mainstream placements. Opportunities have also been provided to identify and share practice and initiatives which support a reduction in these numbers.

3.02 Access to an appropriate curriculum within the secondary setting is considered essential to maintaining engagement and securing better pupil outcomes. Additional funding to support access to a more personalised curriculum is potentially available through the Education Improvement Grant (previously 14-19 Grant) and the European Social Fund regional bid, TRAC. It is recognised that the range of options available need to engage pupils, develop employability skills and offer recognised qualifications, which has not been consistently offered across all settings.

3.03 Access to appropriate support is also integral to ensuring improved outcomes. Flintshire has a good track record of low levels of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). This is partly due to the Personal Support Programme where officers target young people who have disengaged and work closely with them to build skills, confidence and the ability to transition into a positive outcome. Consideration is being given to how this can be extended to include pupils who are deemed to be at risk of disengagement, and to extend the age range for intervention and continued support to maintain placements.

3.04 The current provision offered through Flintshire's pupil referral units is in need of review to ensure that it fully complements the role of mainstream schools and provides a range of specialist interventions to support the maintenance of school placements. Where this is not deemed appropriate, it needs to offer a viable alternative for a decreasing number of pupils and also reduce the need for out of county placements.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 The actions plans specific to this area of work under the Education & Youth Improvement & Modernisation strategy be presented to the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in May/June when funding sources will have been confirmed and programmes of activity mapped out.

4.02 The Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee is invited to create a task and finish group to help develop and evaluate policy options and proposed programmes.

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 None as a result of this report.

12.00 **APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 – KS4 Pupil Outcomes.

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

None.

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