

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 10 JULY 2012**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SUBJECT: **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE - MID YEAR REVIEW**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 For Executive to receive a mid year overview of:

- the progress of the Strategic Partnerships and;
- the priorities for each of the Strategic Partnerships and the key milestones for the year ahead.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Flintshire Local Service Board (LSB) under its Terms of Reference has five principal roles:

1. Effective and trusting partnership relationships as a set of local leaders.
2. Discharging the responsibilities of an LSB - this includes producing a meaningful and fit for purpose Community Strategy.
3. Consistent and effective governance and performance of strategic partnerships, e.g., Children and Young People's Partnership, Community Safety Partnership, Health, Social Care and Well Being Partnership, Housing Partnership, Local Safeguarding Children Board, Regeneration Partnership and Youth Justice Service.
4. Identifying common issues as public bodies/employers.
5. Promoting collaboration in the design and provision of local public services and to make best economic use of local partner's resources, such as people, money, assets and technology.

2.02 Working alongside the Flintshire LSB are eight key Strategic Partnerships:

- Children & Young People's Partnership and 'Making a Positive Difference' Plan (2011 to 2014)
- Community Safety Partnership and Strategic Plan (2008 to 2011)
- Flintshire Housing Partnership
- Health, Social Care and Well-being Partnership and the Good Health,

Good Care Strategy (2011 to 2014)

- Flintshire and Wrexham Local Safeguarding Children Board Strategic Plan (2011 to 2014)
- Regeneration Partnership
- Voluntary Sector Compact
- Youth Justice Plan and Board

Collectively, the LSB and these Strategic Partnerships are known as 'Flintshire in Partnership'. Flintshire's Strategic Partnerships are critically important in contributing towards the quality of life for the County of Flintshire. It is important that members are aware of each of the partnership priorities and work programmes.

2.03 The Strategic Partnerships are formed and work together for a number of reasons:

- Statutory provisions i.e. Children and Young People's Partnership; Community Safety Partnership; Health, Social Care and Well-being Partnership; Local Safeguarding Children Board, Youth Justice Service.
- National agreement e.g. Voluntary Sector Compact.
- Local agreement to ensure a more strategic and integrated approach, e.g. Regeneration Partnership, Housing Partnership

2.04 The last summary on strategic partnership performance was reported to the Executive in January 2012.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 **Children & Young People's Partnership (CYPP) and 'Making a Positive Difference' Plan (2011 to 2014)**

Requirement for the Strategy

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to publish a plan setting out its strategy for discharging its functions for children and young people as required by Section 26 Children Act 2004.

How and When the Strategy will be Reviewed

The needs assessment has been updated to support the new 2011 to 2014 Plan and it will inform the priority work areas. A community needs assessment for the Families First Plan was developed in October 2011.

The 2011 to 2014 Plan was approved by the CYPP Board, the Executive and BCUHB in May/June 2011. 'Making a Positive Difference' has now been adopted and was officially launched on the 19th June 2011.

The Plan is operational until 31st March 2014. It will be reviewed mid term

on request from Welsh Government. Action areas within the plan will be measured to inform a review of progress annually. The CYPP Board is currently working to devise a fit for purpose monitoring structure and system to enable effective monitoring and evaluation.

The Families First and Flying Start Plans have been submitted to Welsh Government and are awaiting full agreement.

Current Key Priorities

- Children and Young People are cared for.
- Children and Young People are ready, able and encouraged to learn.
- Children and Young People have a healthy lifestyle.
- Children and Young People have time and space to play, and to participate in activities.
- Children and Young People are respected in all areas of their lives.
- Children and Young People are safe.
- Children, Young People and Families have the resources they need to maximise their opportunities.

Some of the above are recognised as joint priorities with other key strategies for Flintshire, e.g., joint priorities shared with the Health, Social Care and Well-Being Partnership ('Good Health, Good Care' Strategy).

Progress Made in the Last 6 Months

- a. The Families First funding transition commissioning is in hand and the outcomes are expected by 1st October 2012. The new commissioned strategic projects will be effective from this date. There is a multi agency commissioning panel working closely with procurement within FCC to manage this process. The Team Around the Family (TAF) team is now fully recruited to and operational. Current referrals include approximately 40 families which exceed expected targets. This is a significant area of work and has involved recruitment of a new team and development of the Families First Plan for 2012 to 2017.
- b. Work to map vulnerable families was undertaken in spring 2011. The work will inform the approach to the delivery of the Families First Programme. The follow on work to map families with a disabled child has now been published and is being fully utilised to help to commission new services under the Families First banner.
- c. The Child-care Sufficiency Audit has been completed.
- d. The Family Information Service has continued to expand its service and the welfare rights and Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) element of Families First are demonstrating positive debt reduction and family engagement outcomes.

- e. The completion of the website for the CYP Partnership www.youngflintshire.co.uk/fflintyrifanc.co.uk and the development of the Families First website is ongoing. The DVD for the Families First Plan is being developed and the DVD for the CYPP plan has been completed.
- f. Parenting Strategy – work is being undertaken to build on the delivery of existing Parenting Programmes and workforce development. This includes the development of the National Occupational Standards accredited training programmes via the Parenting Strategy groups. We hope to build on this work under the Families First banner funding.
- g. Continued work to support child care provision and child care services including child care for disabled children. The volunteer mentor programme (working title of “BEING ME”) is operational and has recruited volunteers.
- h. Workforce development approaches for the Team Around the Family programme and collaborative approaches to develop our workforce plan in line with other strategies. We have worked with Derby University to develop a framework for workforce development as a tool to be used in all our Families First work. This also ensures the inclusion of the Welsh language and diversity issues within all our planning.
- i. Continued work to take forward the advocacy model for Flintshire in partnership with all six North Wales counties and utilising the Welsh Government Guidance and the National Advocacy project ‘MEIC’. NYAS are developing a joint project with the CYPP to map existing advocacy provision and offer National Occupational Standards qualifications widely.
- j. Engaging with the ‘Creating an Active Flintshire’ (CAF) Board. The CYPP team presented to the CAF Board to share good practice around engagement and participation methods.
- k. Regional developments of systems with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), input to the locality working links and regional development took place in January 2012.
- l. Assessing the CYP’s equality commitments and application of this to the emerging CYP action areas for the CYP delivery plans.
- m. Further development of the 3rd sector Welsh language/bilingual youth support provision via Fflic/Menter Iaith and Urdd in Flintshire. This project secured Youth Service support again this year.
- n. Supported the work of "RESPECTFEST" respecting others work.

Key Milestones for the Year Ahead

- a. Continue to support the Team Around the Family programme development and creation of bespoke posts to deliver the programme.

- b. Continue to develop the Families First Programme and recruit the remainder of the team.
- c. Take forward the advocacy model for Flintshire in line with regional and national plans. Also enhance this provision with local NYAS project.
- d. Obesity in children and young people – Public Health Wales (PHW) lead – continue to work to develop action plans.
- e. Support Respectfest 2012 and address all participation work for the CYP Plan which will include a review of approaches.
- f. Develop robust systems to engage with BCUHB and engage in locality work and regional plans. CYPP Coordinator now attends Locality groups.
- g. Workforce development – agree a workforce development plan in line with other strategies and partners’ needs and considerations for the Families First Programme. Utilising workforce development tool for Families First planning.
- h. Further development of the Child-care Action Plan to build on existing notable practice, further delivery and development of the Parenting Strategy and workforce element of this work.
- i. Sustain strong effective links with Youth Service to support the review of Youth Service in Flintshire and re-model the participation delivery. CYPP now included in a working group to evaluate existing strategy.
- j. Assess the CYP’s equality commitments together with the Councils Single Equality Plan and Welsh Language Scheme. A refresh audit of partnership governance is also being undertaken.
- k. Introduce an outcomes focussed plan and performance management system for our future CYP Plan. Hold development sessions for the CYP Board and stakeholders to inform the commissioning of services for the Families First funding. Effective from May 2012 to October 2012.
- l. Build on the notable practice of working with the Welsh Medium Youth Service providers, e.g., develop the DVD for the CYP Plan and other partnership working to ensure effective engagement of the Welsh medium provision. The CYPP Coordinator works bilingually with all Welsh medium organisations.

3.02 Community Safety Partnership and Strategic Plan (2011 to 2014)
Requirement for the Strategy

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and the subsequent amendments by the Police Reform Act 2002 and Police and Justice Act 2006, place a statutory duty on the local authority, police authority, police service, primary health

service, probation and fire service to work together to address the community safety agenda.

Collectively, these bodies make up the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), and each year they are required to produce a Strategic Assessment, and a Strategic Plan which is formulated every three years.

How and When the Strategy will be Reviewed

The CSP's Strategic Plan spans a three year period, and is reviewed on an annual basis. The current plan runs between April 2011 and March 2014. This is the first joint Community Safety Plan with Wrexham, and builds upon the joint Flintshire and Wrexham Strategic Assessment.

Current Priorities

The priorities of the Plan are jointly shared by both CSP's. They are:

- Reduce the levels of violent crime including domestic and sexual violence.
- Tackle anti-social behaviour.
- Reduce the levels of acquisitive crime.
- Reduce re-offending by supporting the agencies which actively manage offenders.
- Reduce the harm that substance misuse causes to communities, families and individuals.
- Tackle hate related crime and disorder and encourage reporting.
- Engage with the community to provide re-assurance and increase public confidence.

Progress Made in the Last 6 Months (Locally; Sub-Regionally & Regionally)

- a. On behalf of the Regional Leadership Board, leading on the establishment of a North Wales Safer Communities Board. The first meeting is due to be held on 3rd July 2012.
- b. The development of a North Wales Strategic Assessment is underway, and will be finalised by July 2012. This will be the first time this document has been regionally produced.
- c. Formal approval of Community Safety Fund and Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) funding for 2012/3.
- d. Review of the Priority Crime Group.
- e. Successful launch of the Street Rugby Initiative that will target young people in Communities First areas during the summer holidays.
- f. Launch of Operation Housewatch. This initiative will safeguard vacant and empty residential properties through the installation of low-level security equipment. The scheme will be supported by the Neighbourhood Wardens.
- g. On-going delivery of training to multi agency groups around the use of the CAADA Dash Risk Assessment tool for Domestic Abuse.
- h. Flintshire SMAT has commissioned a number of service user recovery programmes following a successful pilot run in Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham. This will improve longer term and sustainable recovery from substance misuse.

Key Milestones for the Year Ahead

- a. Establishment of the North Wales Safer Communities Board, and the work associated with its establishment.
- b. Preparations for the appointment of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- c. Scoping the work streams emanating from 'Effective Services for Vulnerable Groups' – particularly relating to domestic violence.
- d. Flintshire SMAT to consider the implications of the Area Planning Board assuming greater commissioning powers.
- e. Regional commissioning of substance misuse awareness training for practitioners.
- f. Rolling out a substance misuse education programme in all secondary schools and Pupil Referral Unit's (PRU's) in Flintshire.
- g. Strengthening links with Licensing, SMAT and North Wales Police to ensure appropriate test purchasing operations within on-licence premises.
- h. Continued collaborative work regionally and sub regionally.
- i. Enhancement of existing services to young people based on the recommendations of the Hidden Harm Inquiry and a local service mapping exercise.
- j. Continue to work with Housing to look at the forthcoming requirement to implement the Wales Management Standard for Anti Social Behaviour.

3.03 Flintshire Housing Partnership Requirement for the Strategy

The Flintshire Housing Partnership (FHP) was established to provide a consultative forum for strategic housing matters and provide direction to the Flintshire Local Housing Strategy. The partnership provides opportunities for member organisations to work collectively on housing and related projects and to influence the Flintshire Local Housing Strategy accordingly.

How and When the Strategy will be Reviewed

The FHP meets quarterly to review progress on key priority projects and further develop its work programme.

Current Key Priorities & Progress Made in the Last 6 Months

Responding to Welfare Reforms Partnership members are working on the 'under occupation' situation at present and it is intended that the partnership will look at working together on helping each other with this problem.

The establishment of a database of adapted properties is progressing and it is intended to have a completed register of adapted social housing in June 2012.

Social Housing Grant (SHG) Programme: As reported previously the transition to the new programme management arrangements has gone smoothly. The Programme Delivery Plan (PDP) is being maintained and Welsh Government are being provided with quarterly updates.

Glyndwr University, which had been engaged jointly by Flintshire and Wrexham Councils to update the North East Wales Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) is currently concluding and the outputs are being used to inform the emerging Local Housing Strategy project.

The common housing register (Single Access Routes to Housing (SARTH) Project) has commenced and is being project managed by a shared post hosted by Wales and West Housing Association. A draft common allocation framework has been developed and a legal opinion is being sought.

The above form the core of the FHP work programme and will continue to link to the review of the Flintshire Local Housing Strategy which is being carried out in collaboration with Wrexham County Borough Council.

At its meeting held in May 2012, the Partnership resolved to review its terms of reference due to the number of operational issues being considered by the partnership.

Key Milestones for the Year Ahead

- Database of adapted housing – April 2012
- Common Housing Register. Finalise allocation policy – September 2012
- Local Housing Strategy – September 2012

3.04 **Health, Social Care and Well-being Partnership and the Good Health, Good Care Strategy (2011 to 2014)**

Requirement for the Strategy

The Health, Social Care and Well-Being (HSCWB) Strategy is a statutory requirement in accordance with the 'Health, Social Care & Well-being Strategies (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007' and associated guidance from the Welsh Government (WG).

The guidance states that there is a statutory requirement for a partnership between the Local Authority and the Local Health Board to formulate a local Health, Social Care and Well-Being Strategy for their area. This includes collectively developing strategic approaches to improve the health, social care and well being of the local population in partnership with other organisations in the voluntary, private and public sector.

How and When the Strategy will be Reviewed

The current strategy is effective until 31st March 2014.

Current Key Priorities

The Strategy has 9 outcomes for the population of Flintshire:

- People do not smoke.
- People drink alcohol within recommended guidelines.

- People are a healthy weight for their height.
- Older people do not fall.
- People do not deliberately harm or injure themselves and that people do not die by suicide.
- Older frail people receiving health and social services are supported to remain at home and have options and influence over their lives.
- People with specific long term or chronic conditions receiving health and social services have options and influence over their lives and are supported to remain at home.
- Young disabled people receiving health and social care, going through transition into adulthood have choice/control and are supported to remain within their community where this is their choice.
- Informal carers have options and influence over their lives.

Progress Made in the Last 6 Months and Key Milestones for the Year Ahead

Work continues to take place within localities in order to ensure that the strategic objectives within locality plans will contribute to the objectives set within the strategy.

Regional obesity plans have been finalised and are being shared with localities for local implementation of actions for the two priorities; interventions within primary and community settings and interventions to reduce and prevent maternal obesity.

Through the Well Being Activity Grant, resources have been purchased and distributed to older adults to provide quality assured information on recommended guidelines for alcohol consumption, along with unit measures to support healthy lifestyle choices.

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board introduced a new Smokefree Policy for staff, patients and visitors to all of its grounds. With very few exceptions, smoking is prohibited throughout the entire workplace, grounds and Health Board-owned vehicles. A range of support is offered to staff and patients who wish to give up smoking.

Two priority areas for a regional approach to implementing the Obesity Pathway have been agreed following a North Wales workshop. These priorities are maternal obesity and people with cardiovascular risk.

Locality plans have been developed to include actions in support of the strategy with representatives attending meetings on behalf of the Partnership Board.

Through the Well being Activity Grant from the Welsh Government, quality assured resources have been ordered for use in secondary schools to support health promotion activity relating to tobacco and alcohol.

Work on the Transforming Social Services for Adults (TSSA) continues and will particularly support two of the HSCWB priorities:

- Older frail people receiving health and social services are supported to remain at home and have options and influence over their lives.
- People with specific long term or chronic conditions receiving health and social services have options and influence over their lives and are supported to remain at home.

A regional group inclusive of BCUHB; Local Authorities and the Third Sector is working towards the completion of the regional information strategy (to meet the forthcoming Carers Measure). Whilst Flintshire has extended existing contracts for carers support from the third sector for an additional 6 months, we have utilised the Flintshire Carers Commissioning Strategy for 2012 to 2015 to commission services from September 2012 to March 2015. The contracts that will be developed will measure performance in a way that is meaningful for the HSCWB Strategy.

Work to develop a joint Social Services for Children and Social Services for Adults 'Transition Team' is progressing. A Senior Practitioner was appointed during April and will take up their post when Human Resource processes are complete. A number of other key posts are in the process of being recruited to. The Provider arm of the team is operational and continues to support known young people with disabilities in transition. Existing workstreams to develop person centred tools and clear policies and procedures are ongoing.

Regional or Sub-regional Developments

Proposals in line with the work being undertaken on Partnership and Plan rationalisation are being developed.

3.05 **Flintshire and Wrexham Local Safeguarding Children Board (FWLSCB) Strategic Plan (2011 to 2014)**

Requirement for the Strategy

The Children Act 2004 Section 31 requires every local authority to establish a Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) to coordinate and ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each member agency for the purpose of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The objectives and functions of LSCB's are described in 'Safeguarding Children: Working Together' under the Children Act 2004 including that the LSCB should develop its own business plan to guide its work programme.

The Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB Strategic Plan 2011 to 2014 and Business Plan 2011 to 2012 are the first planning documents for the newly formed (April 2011) joint LSCB and have been developed by the multi-agency LSCB Merge Steering Group taking into account:

- the content of the previous Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB Business

Plans.

- the findings of the LSCB Self Assessment which took place in each local authority area in 2010 (*prior to the merge*).
- the views of children and young people across Wrexham and Flintshire as collected by both Children and Young People's Partnerships to inform the Welsh Government Core Aim 3 (*All Children and Young People enjoy the best possible health, are free from abuse, victimisation and exploitation*) of the statutory Children and Young People Plans.
- comments on our strategic plan from the range of professionals represented on the FWLSCB and a number of other key statutory partnerships which exist across Flintshire and Wrexham.

How and When the Strategy will be Reviewed

The strategy for the FWLSCB covers a period of three years and will be reviewed annually in line with the review of the annual business plan.

Progress made on the actions within the business plan are reported to the FWLSCB Development Group on a quarterly basis using the 'Headline' document which employs 'red, amber, green' ratings to reflect performance. This performance reporting document is also shared with the FWLSCB Executive Board.

Performance measures in the business plan will be reported at the end of the calendar year and be included in the FWLSCB Annual Report. The FWLSCB will also consider all performance information available to them as part of the annual self assessment which will inform the review of the strategy and development of the business plan for the year ahead.

The FWLSCB undertook its annual self assessment on the 24th January, using the Welsh Government LSCB Self assessment and improvement tool. This assessment has supported the Board in measuring its effectiveness and identifying areas for development for the year ahead. The Board will develop an annual report which will detail progress against each of the agreed measures and include the outcome of its annual self assessment.

Current Key Priorities & Progress Made in the Last 6 Months

The FWLSCB agreed a number of key functions based on those set out in statutory guidance - Safeguarding Children: Working Together under the Children Act 2004. In the development of the strategy these functions have been used as a framework for action with the Board setting its priorities 2011-14 against each function. In relation to the key priorities noted in the last report (January 2012) the following progress has been made:

- The LSCB Business plan for 2011/12 has been implemented and tasks carried over are included in the 2012/13 business plan, which was agreed by Board members in March 2012.
- Formal partnership agreements setting out communication and reporting with the FWLSCB are in place with the Flintshire HSCWB Partnership,

the Flintshire CYPP, the Wrexham HSCWB Partnership, the Wrexham CYPP and the Flintshire and Wrexham YJS services.

- The FWLSCB training calendar for 2012/13 has been implemented and findings in respect of attendance, quality and impact were provided to the Boards self assessment event in January. The annual training needs analysis has been undertaken and has informed the training calendar for the year ahead.
- The FWLSCB annual conference on 'Safeguarding in a high-tech digital world' was held in February 2012. The conference was attended by the Children's Commissioner for Wales and over 100 professionals, volunteers and children and young people from Wrexham and Flintshire. Specific actions from the event have been included in the Boards business plan for 2012/13.
- All national and regional policies and procedures produced throughout the year have been ratified and disseminated through the LSCB and a number of awareness raising activities have taken place throughout the year, including the annual conference, web pages and articles in local newspapers and the Councils magazines.
- The first meeting to set up the junior LSCB with children and young people took place on 26th May 2012.
- Further revisions have been made to the FWLSCB audit tool to support the Board in its monitoring role and a programme of audits has been agreed for 2012/13.

Key Milestones for the Year Ahead

- i. Progress the implementation of the LSCB Business Plan for 2012/13.
- ii. Continue to build and strengthen relationships with other Partnerships with regards to safeguarding activity.
- iii. Continue to promote and raise awareness of safeguarding with professionals, parents/carers and children and young people the need to safeguarding.
- iv. Continue to strengthen the Boards monitoring role in relation to safeguarding matters.
- v. Continue to provide a range of training on child protection and safeguarding that meets local needs and is continually reviewed to ensure it is effective.
- vi. Continue to ensure that children, young people, Parents and Carers are consulted with, listened to and involved in the development and review of the work of the LSCB

Regional or Sub-regional Developments

Following the proposals to reduce the number of LSCB's in Wales, as set out within the draft Social Services Bill (Wales) consultation, the Chairs, Vice Chairs and business managers of the three LSCB's in North Wales have met to consider options for North Wales. A proposal has been developed and will be considered by each of the North Wales LSCB's in June/July.

3.06 **Regeneration Partnership** Requirement for the Strategy

The Flintshire Regeneration Partnership was established in September 2005 to bring together the wide range of organisations and initiatives involved in regeneration in Flintshire, to ensure a more strategic and integrated approach. The preparation of a holistic approach to tackling the county's needs and for this to be set out in an agreed long-term strategy, were early recommendations of the Partnership.

The Flintshire Regeneration Strategy was produced in 2008/09 and subsequently approved by the Executive in October 2009, it is of particular importance at a time of economic uncertainty. It sets out those actions that will be taken to facilitate recovery, to ensure that Flintshire is prepared for the challenges to be faced as the economy emerges from recession and to ensure that a focused and coordinated approach brings together the actions and resources of all relevant partners for maximum local benefit.

How and When the Strategy will be Reviewed

The Partnership held its second Economic Regeneration Conference on 24th February 2012 at Clwyd Theatr Cymru, when partners and stakeholders were able to review progress and identify priority actions for the next two to three years. An invited audience of 100 people attended the conference, representing local businesses, Town and Community Councils, Town Partnerships, the Voluntary Sector, Welsh Government, and other key stakeholder partners.

The Regeneration Strategy itself will be reviewed during 2012/2013 to ensure that it reflects these priorities and remains focussed and up to date.

Current Key Priorities

The Regeneration Partnership is using the theme "Flintshire: Open for Business" to encompass its work and has created themes for regeneration in Flintshire – Business, Places and People.

The key priorities are:

- Improve rate of youth unemployment.
- Increase level of inward investment.
- Strengthen competitive position for manufacturing, especially advanced manufacturing.
- Improve availability of skilled workforce for large companies.
- Reduce vacancy rates and improved foot fall on High Streets.

Progress Made in the Last 6 Months

Business:

- a. WG announced the new Deeside Enterprise Zone (DEZ) as a key strategic location for Wales Advanced Manufacturing sector. DEZ will be a catalyst for the Northern Gateway development attracting new

investment opportunities, creating an estimated 7,000 new jobs and deliver sustainable regeneration helping to transform communities both in Deeside and across North Wales.

- b. Work is underway to develop a Local Labour Market Centre in partnership with Careers Wales, Job Centre Plus, Communities First, Deeside College, Glyndwr University and neighbouring Local Authorities. This will be encompassed within the proposed Advanced Manufacturing Centre.
- c. Flintshire Business Week October 2011 attracted 2,576 business delegates against WG Outcome Agreement target of 1,400. Key events included; Flintshire Goes to Westminster, a two day Trade Fair hosted by Convatec, Deeside, AM/MP Question Time and the Flintshire Business Awards and Gala Dinner.
- d. The level of general support and investment enquiries from businesses continue to increase with 2,583 individual enquiries handled this year. In addition, 67 business and community development initiatives and forums have been designed and delivered, engaging with more than 3,900 delegates to encourage networking and training to all business sectors and sizes.

Places:

- a. The Masterplan for Flint is now complete and FCC and partners are now planning the implementation of the key recommendations.
- b. A Destination Management Partnership has been formed to lead the approach to the visitor economy in Flintshire. This approach is complementary to wider town centre management, rural development and business development activity, as well as to key service improvements such as the review of Streetscene services.
- c. The Welsh Government has given approval to the North East Wales Town Centre Regeneration project, lead by FCC, and covering Flintshire and Wrexham. This will support the physical regeneration of town centres across the area and has a project value of £3,959,497. The project will run from now until the end of 2015.
- d. The Welsh Government also gave approval to the Rural Development Plan (RDP) programme for Flintshire; a package of 4 projects worth in total £4,980,562 to improve the quality of life and economic vitality of rural communities.
- e. The previous round of RDP funding came to a successful conclusion during the last months of the year with £2,745,994 of funding drawn down from WG, approximately 94.4% of the allocated funds.

People:

- a. The Regeneration Partnership has been working closely with Communities First and the Local Service Board on the Employment, Education and Training (EET) agenda. Significant progress has been made linking with Flintshire's manufacturing and hospitality industries, establishing new good practice aimed at reducing the numbers of

young people not in Employment Education or Training NEET and improving opportunities for Flintshire's most disadvantaged communities.

- b. Partners aiming primarily at young people under 25 are developing a number of initiatives with Flintshire Regeneration Partners acting as catalysts to progress.
- c. Discussions with public, private and voluntary sector partners including Business in the Community (BITC), Flintshire Local Voluntary Council (FLVC) and Groundwork UK, are developing a cross sector approach to work experience, apprenticeships and entrepreneurship, with the focus on young people in secondary education, and on young people under 25 not in Employment Education or Training (NEET). Careers Wales, Job Centre Plus and Communities First are supporting the developing Flintshire agenda, linked to the Jobs Growth Wales and Get Britain Working strategies.

Key milestones for the year ahead

General:

- a. Review and refresh the Regeneration Strategy and develop a monitoring framework for progress towards key outcomes.

Business:

- a. Develop the Deeside Enterprise Zone further and attract and support inward investors.
- b. Develop the Manufacturing Centre of Excellence project.

Places:

- a. Continue to develop support for the designation of a Regeneration Area for Deeside to bring about a large comprehensive renewal area in the county – jobs / housing improvement / town centre renewal / environmental upgrade (ongoing).
- b. Explore the potential of a Local Asset Backed Vehicle as a means of securing the long-term regeneration of Flintshire (ongoing).
- c. Implement the long term plans for the eight main towns in Flintshire (ongoing).
- d. Develop Destination Management Plan for Flintshire. (Mid-2012).

People:

- a. Develop a Labour Market Office linked to the Deeside Growth Zone to link new job opportunities to the local unemployed population.
- b. Continue programme of jobs support in Communities First areas to link local people to job opportunities and support provision (ongoing).
- c. Continue to address the Child Poverty agenda by increasing residents' financial literacy, and improved access to Credit Unions through additional community based collection points and model junior savings

schemes, particularly in schools which serve disadvantaged areas.

- e. Review the structures and priorities for the CF programme to align it to the strategic needs of the area and the WG priorities.

Regional or Sub-regional Developments

Sub-regional collaboration projects are underway for inward investment, tourism and events.

3.07 **Voluntary Sector Compact**

The Compact is a way to supporting collaboration between statutory bodies and the voluntary (or third) sector. It was originally established as a national agreement between central government and the voluntary and community sector in 1998.

Current Key Priorities

- Continue to support the development of a strategic approach to 1) advice provision in Flintshire, 2) maximising external funding opportunities, and 3) efficiency programme.
- Development of Regional Health Compact.
- Transport and Access to Health Services – focus on regional & sub regional partnerships.
- Maximising external funding opportunities.
- FLVC Community Lottery bid under the theme of 'Learning and Empowerment'.

Key Milestones for the Year Ahead

- Big Lottery: Community Voice - FLVC to submit the 2nd round bid by 30th July. The aim of the “Community Voice” programme is to build the capacity of citizens to engage in planning and running services and portfolios of projects that respond to their communities needs and advance community benefit.
- Transport and Access to Health - Community transport and the planning of health services within Localities.
- Advice Management and the implications of welfare reform.
- Revised Scrutiny arrangements.

3.08 **Youth Justice Plan and Board**

Requirement for the Strategy

The Youth Justice Plan is written annually to meet legislative, grant making and business planning requirements. It has to meet the requirements of:

- The Youth Justice Board (YJB) – as a legislative requirement (Crime and Disorder Act 1998) and condition of grant.
- The Youth Justice Service (YJS) Executive Management Board.
- The County Council.

- YJS staff at an operational level.
- Partner agencies.

How and When the Strategy will be Reviewed

The current strategy is operational until mid year 2012 when the 2012 to 2013 plan will become operational. The new plan for 2012 is being developed using an outcome focused approach and it will engage with young people and other stakeholders in its construction.

The 2012 plan will be circulated to partner agencies for consultation then be approved by the County Council scrutiny process.

Current Key Priorities

Priorities for 2012 are:

- a. Reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system by monitoring first time entrants.
- b. Reduce the number of young people entering the secure estate.
- c. Reduce the reoffending rate of 10 to 17 year olds.
- d. Increase victim and public confidence.

Progress Made in the Last 6 Months

A reduction of First Time Entrants (FTE) has continued to be achieved by the YJS. Preventing offending is the principal aim of the youth justice system and Flintshire YJS has continued to develop prevention services which have an impact on the reduction of the number of FTE into the youth justice system.

The numbers of young people entering the secure estate are minimal and the introduction of the Youth Rehabilitation Order the previous year enabled the partnership between the YJS and the Courts to be reviewed and strengthened. The numbers of young people attending court has seen a significant decrease and this can be attributed to more robust policing methods looking at alternatives to arrest, the restorative justice agenda linked to prevention work carried out by the Youth Justice Service and possibly the closing of the Mold custody suite.

Reoffending rates are determined by monitoring cohorts of young people and the YJS has implemented systems linked to the Careworks system to track these. The highest rates of re-offending are demonstrated by those young people subject to periods in custody. It should be noted that this population in Flintshire is often confined to three or four individuals so any offence committed by this group impacts significantly on re-offending rates demonstrated by the whole group.

The YJS contact all identified victims and has a dedicated Victim Liaison Officer. The Victim Strategy is currently being reviewed and amended.

Key Milestones for the Year Ahead

There are significant policy changes ahead being implemented by Central Government which will impact upon services provided for the Young people of Flintshire. There is consideration being given to a Youth Justice Bill (Wales) which would be welcomed to build upon the work undertaken by the All Wales Youth Offending Strategy.

The funding formula for grants from the JYB is still not decided and there maybe an additional factor of Payment by Results to contend with which could impact upon practice.

The election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Wales could have an impact on funding levels. Welsh Government funding is also going to be introduced with a regional footprint which will require the four North Wales Youth Justice Services to collaborate and work much more closely together than previously.

Relocation of office premises to Library HQ, possibly in October of this year would require an agile method of working which will provide some challenges however there are many positives to this move with the integration with Children's Services.

Regional or Sub-regional Developments

On a regional level the formation of the North Wales Safer Communities Board which will come into force from June 2012 will impact upon Flintshire YJS as it will provide the strategic input into the service and act as a commissioner for some of the Welsh Government grant funding streams.

Sub regionally, Flintshire YJS will collaborate with Wrexham YJS in areas of practice and training as described above to ensure funding continues.

The Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Team has further developed its brief with the inclusion of a new post for dual diagnosis (mental health and substance misuse). This new post with the additional SMAT funding has enabled the Service to provide a much needed support service to young people and has a more direct route into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

The Flintshire/Wrexham LSCB has now been in operation for over 12 months and the YJS has developed protocols around Serious Incidents with the Board and the Youth Justice Service continues to be actively in all areas of this Board and is represented on all groups from the Executive to support groups.

Flintshire YJS continues to engage with Flintshire Inclusion service and has seen a rise in the time young people are spending in Education, Training and Employment and the Pupil Referral Unit that is a joint venture with the Inclusion Service has recently expanded its brief to work with 16 plus years to enable them to gain college placements.

A significant development is through Creating Active Wales/Sports Wales which the YJS are hopeful to utilise funding to engage young people in further constructive use of leisure time to divert them away from criminal or anti social activities.

3.09 **Partnership and Plan Rationalisation**

In January 2012, the Welsh Government (WG) published, for consultation, statutory guidance on integrating plans and partnerships called 'Shared Purpose - Shared Delivery'.

The aim of the guidance is to strengthen the role and accountability of Local Service Boards in Wales and to replace the four existing statutory plans with a single integrated plan which would be driven by the Local Service Board. In doing so, the Plan would be used to meet statutory responsibilities in relation to the development of plans and strategies under the following legislation:

- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 - Part 2: Community Strategies and Planning (Ss 37-46).
- Children Act 2004 (Part 3: S26) (which includes plans required in accordance with the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 (S2) and the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010 (Part 1)).
- Childcare Act 2006 (Ss 22 and 26).
- NHS (Wales) Act 2006 (Part 3: S40).
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (Part 1: S6).

This would currently incorporate:

- Flintshire County Vision - 2009 to 2019.
- Making a Positive Difference Plan - 2011 to 2014 (Children & Young People's Partnership).
- Community Safety Strategic Plan - 2011 to 2014.
- Good Health, Good Care Strategy - 2011 to 2014 (Health, Social Care and Well-being Partnership).

This guidance would replace:

- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 - Part 2: Community Strategies and Planning.
- Stronger Partnership for better outcomes - Guidance on local cooperation under the Children Act 2004 – issued August 2006 and subsequent guidance on the Children and Young People's Plan.
- Health Social Care and Wellbeing Strategy Guidance 2011/12 to 2012/13.

3.10 The Flintshire response to the consultation was outlined in the report to Executive on the 27th March 2012. In summary, our response was as follows:

- By majority we do not support the proposal to make LSB's a statutory body (some partners do support the proposal).
- We do support reasonable extension of partnership rationalisation.
- We do support the special proposals for ways of making partnership rationalisation work, for example, the Single Integrated Plan.
- We want local freedom in the number of partnerships that exist in Flintshire without the need for prescriptive and intrusive statutory guidance that defines the way in which partnerships must operate.
- We believe that LSB's should have the freedom to act and prioritise allowing for local decision.
- From the outset, the Flintshire LSB has had a role of overseeing and coordinating the strategic partnerships. Strategic Partnerships have had freedom over their approach to delivery. By giving the LSB's more control, this may have a negative impact as partners may become protective over sovereignty.

3.11 Welsh Government will publish the final guidance in late June / early July 2012.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That Cabinet note:

The mid year review of the Strategic Partnerships and support the key priorities and the work programmes to achieve them.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 The needs assessments that underpin the Strategic Plans include a consideration of poverty and deprivation and its impact on the population.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 There are no environmental impacts directly associated with this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 There are no equalities impacts directly associated with this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 The on-going coordination and implementation of the Strategic Plans and Partnership Work Programmes will be taken forward by designated officers within the relevant Partnership teams.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None required.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None required.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None.

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

None.

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