

# Public Document Pack

Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democraataidd



**To: Cllr Ian Roberts (Chairman)**

CS/NG

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Amanda Bragg,  
Ian Dunbar, Ron Hampson, Dennis Hutchinson,  
Stella Jones, Colin Legg, Phil Lightfoot,  
Dave Mackie, Nancy Matthews, Ann Minshull,  
Paul Shotton, Nigel Steele-Mortimer and  
Carolyn Thomas

8 June 2012

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

**Carole Burgess, David Hytch,  
Theresa Millington, Mrs. R. Price and  
Rebecca Stark**

Dear Sir / Madam

A meeting of the **LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
will be held in the **DELYN COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, MOLD CH7 6NA**  
on **THURSDAY, 14TH JUNE, 2012** at **2.30 PM** to consider the following items.

**Members are requested to note the time for the meeting.**

Yours faithfully

Democracy & Governance Manager

## **AGENDA**

1 **APOLOGIES**

2 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**

Nominations will be sought for a Vice-Chair for the Committee.

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County Hall, Mold. CH7 6NA  
Tel. 01352 702400 DX 708591 Mold 4  
[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)  
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6NR  
Ffôn 01352 702400 DX 708591 Mold 4  
[www.siryfflint.gov.uk](http://www.siryfflint.gov.uk)

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawau gohebiaeth yn y Cymraeg neu'r Saesneg

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 24)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**

5 **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES' TERMS OF REFERENCE** (Pages 25 - 32)

To inform the Committee of its Terms of Reference, set in the context of Terms of Reference of all of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

6 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 33 - 38)

Report of Member Engagement Manager -

**LIFELONG LEARNING**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**23 FEBRUARY, 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday, 23 February, 2012

**PRESENT:** Councillor R.P. Macfarlane (Chairman)

Councillors: R.C. Bithell, R. Dolphin, F. Gillmore, H.T. Howorth, H.T. Isherwood, C. Legg, D.I. Mackie, A.P. Shotton and C.A. Thomas

**CO-OPTED MEMBER:** Mr. D. Hytch

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor A. Woolley

**SUBSTITUTION:** Councillors J.B. Attridge for E.F. Evans, Q.R.H. Dodd for H.J. McGuill and J.E. Falshaw for D.L. Mackie

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor W.O. Thomas, Mrs. C. Burgess and Mrs. R. Stark

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Executive Member for Education, Chief Executive, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Schools Services, Head of Development and Resources, Secondary Phase Officer and Primary Phase Officer

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

**71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (including Whipping Declarations)**

The Chairman advised Members of the need to declare a personal interest in school related items on the agenda if they were school or college governors. All Members present except Councillor R.C. Bithell (who is not a school governor) declared an interest as school governors.

**72. VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman indicated that there would be a change in the order of the agenda and the item on Estyn Inspection of Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People would be brought forward.

**73. ESTYN INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY EDUCATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report which detailed the outcome of the recent Estyn Inspection into Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People (LAESCYP).

The Director advised that several sections of the report had matched the Authority's own view of its progress and performance including support for additional learning needs, promoting social inclusion and well-being, access and school places, partnership working and resources management. However, the current report did not clearly identify the progress and achievement being made by children, young people and schools in Flintshire. The accuracy of the section on standards had been in dispute since October 2011 as it was believed that a narrow interpretation of data around Free School Meal benchmarking information by the inspectors, within an inflexible inspection framework, had led to a doubtful judgement. The judgement was not supported by the good outcome on the recent inspection of 14-19 year old provision in Flintshire, learner outcomes and the excellent inspection outcomes for local schools in their individual inspections.

The Director drew attention to the positive performance outcomes for 2010 and 2011 which were attached to the report and advised that they reflected well on the commitment of learners, families, staff, governors and support services. He emphasised that Flintshire was one of the top performing education services in Wales.

Members were informed that a draft action plan was currently being prepared in response to the Estyn report which would be presented for consideration at a meeting of the Committee to be held on 22 March 2012.

The Chief Executive advised that the Authority had registered its concerns about Estyn's judgement of 'adequate' in relation to 'Standards'. As there had not been a satisfactory resolution of the complaint at the Stage 1 referral the Authority had now moved to Stage 2 of Estyn's complaints procedure. The Chief Executive gave an overview of the areas of disagreement and dissatisfaction which had been expressed in correspondence to Estyn's Complaints Officer.

During discussion the Chief Executive and Director of Lifelong Learning responded to the questions and concerns expressed by Members around reduction in surplus places, entitlement and uptake of free school meals, and looked after children.

Councillor C.A. Thomas raised a number of concerns around leadership and commented that there had been a lack of communication with Members regarding decision making on the School Modernisation Strategy and School Budget formula to assist in taking strategies forward. She also commented that parents needed to be made aware that even if receiving a moderate income there could still be an entitlement for their children to

receive Free School Meals. The Chief Executive responded to the comments made and advised that schools had been involved in the early process concerning leadership. He made reference to the schools funding formula and the positive work and support undertaken to complete the review this year.

The Executive Member for Education gave an update on the School Modernisation consultation process and said that he expected the Authority to be in a position in May this year to progress with work proposed in the Holywell and Connah's Quay areas. He also commented on the matter of school balances, which was subject to further direction from the Welsh Government, and said that work would be undertaken with the Committee to resolve concerns arising from school budgets.

Councillor H.T. Isherwood raised concerns around the production of Personal Education Plans for looked-after children and bullying in schools. The Director responded to the issues raised and said that the need for further development had been identified in the self evaluation report.

Councillor Q.R.H. Dodd raised the matter of out of county placements into the Authority.

Councillor J.B. Attridge referred to a FOI request he had submitted for a copy of the first draft of the Estyn report which had been refused. The Chief Executive explained why the request had been refused and emphasised that the document was the property of Estyn.

The Chairman advised that an Action Plan was currently being produced to respond to the recommendations made for improvement in the Estyn report. The draft Plan would be submitted to a meeting of the Committee to be held in March and to Executive on 27 March 2012 before submission to Estyn. The Chairman proposed that an additional recommendation be included that the Committee endorsed the Authority's intention to progress to Stage 2 of Estyn's complaints procedure, which was agreed.

The Chief Executive said that the Authority would continue to work with Estyn to resolve the concerns raised about the judgement which the Authority deemed inappropriate.

Councillor C. Legg expressed his thanks to Officers for their hard work and commitment during the Estyn Inspection.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Estyn Report and the conclusions about the Local Authority's Education Services be received and noted;

- (b) That the Action Plan be submitted for consideration by the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee prior to adoption by the Executive and submission to Estyn; and
- (c) That the Committee endorsed the Authority's intention to progress to Stage 2 of Estyn's complaints procedure.

**74. PUPIL ATTAINMENT 2010/2011 AND IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PHASES**

The Head of Schools Services offered to provide a joint update on Pupil Attainment 2010/2011 and the Improvement Strategies for Primary and Secondary School Phases.

The Head of Service advised that the Welsh Government had produced a set of results, by Local Authority area, of pupil attainment at the end of Key Stages 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. He introduced Janice Dickens, Primary Schools Phase Officer and Kevin Grandfield, Secondary Schools Phase Officer, and invited them to present an analysis of pupil attainment in statutory assessment and public examinations in the academic year 2010/2011 for pupils in years 2, 6, 9, 11 and 13 in Flintshire. During discussion Officers responded in detail to the questions and concerns raised by Members around standards and leadership in schools.

Members were also asked to note the progress made with regard to the 2010/2011 improvement strategies and the priorities within the 2011/2012 strategies for the Primary School Phase and Secondary School Phase.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the reports be received and the attainment of Flintshire pupils for 2010/11 be noted; and
- (b) That the progress made with regard to the 2010/2011 improvement strategies and the priorities within the 2011/2012 strategies for the Primary School Phase and the Secondary School Phase be noted.

**75. 14-19 EDUCATIONAL PROVISION**

The Director of Lifelong Learning provided a verbal update on the School Modernisation consultation process. He made reference to the programme for the consultation meetings which had been considered by County Council and said that Area Schools Review booklets had been distributed and copies made available for Members. Consultation would also be undertaken with school staff, school governors and young people. If Members required any further information he asked that they contact the Directorate of Lifelong Learning.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update be noted.

**76. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator introduced the Forward Work Programme of the Committee.

Members reviewed the current programme and agreed that the following items be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 22 March 2012:

- Q3 Performance report
- Incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire schools
- Accidents in schools
- Progress report on the planning and funding for the relocation of Saltney Library
- 14-19 educational provision

**RESOLVED:**

That the Forward Work Programme be agreed.

**77. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was one member of the press in attendance and no members of the public present.

**78. DURATION OF THE MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and concluded at 4.50 p.m.

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**Chairman**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

<b>LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>		<b>DATE: 23 February, 2012</b>
<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTE NO.</b>
<p>Councillors: J.B. Attridge, R.P. Macfarlane, Q.R.H. Dodd, R. Dolphin, J.E. Falshaw, F. Gillmore, H.T. Howorth, H.T. Isherwood, C. Legg, D.I. Mackie, A.P. Shotton and C.A. Thomas</p> <p><b><u>CO-OPTED MEMBERS:</u></b> Mr. D. Hytch, Mrs. T. Millington and</p>	<p>Estyn inspection of local authority education services for children and young people</p>	73



**LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**9 MARCH 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council, held at County Hall, Mold on Friday, 9 March 2012.

**PRESENT: Councillor R.P. Macfarlane (Chairman)**

Councillors: R Dolphin, F Gillmore, D.I. Mackie, D.L. Mackie and C.A. Thomas

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Mr D Hytch and Mrs. T. Millington

**SUBSTITUTIONS:** Councillor J.B. Attridge for A.P. Shotton

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors Q.R.H. Dodd, M.J. Peers (initiators of the call-in), and K. Armstrong-Braun

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors R C Bithell, E.F. Evans, H.T. Howorth, H.T. Isherwood, C. Legg, H J McGuill and W.O. Thomas

**REPRESENTING THE DECISION MAKERS:** Executive Member for Education, Director of Lifelong Learning, and Staffing and Governance Development Manager

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Member Engagement Manager and Committee Officer

**79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (including Whipping Declarations)**

The Chairman advised Members of the need to declare a personal interest in school related items on the agenda if they were school or college governors.

**80. 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 an Executive decision.

**81. PANEL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF LEA GOVERNORS**

The Call-In had related to the decision of the Executive from its meeting held on 21 February 2012 on Panel for the Appointment of LEA Governors. The Call-In notice had been signed by four 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 the Executive on 21 February 2012.
- (c) A copy of the Executive Record of Decision.

- (d) A copy of the Call In letter signed by Councillors J.B. Attridge, Q.R.H. Dodd, P.G. Heesom, and M.J. Peers.

Councillor M.J. Peers outlined the reasons for the Call-In. He said that at a meeting of the Panel for the Appointment of LEA Governors held on 17 June 2011, a review of the arrangements, powers and responsibilities of the Panel had taken place and it was agreed that a report be submitted to the Constitution Committee recommending that the Executive amend the existing procedures. The Constitution Committee, at a meeting held on 19 October 2011, endorsed the recommendations of the Panel for consideration by the Executive as detailed in paragraphs 3.01 to 3.08 of the report submitted to the meeting of the Constitution Committee.

Councillor Peers explained that the Panel operated well within its terms of reference. He emphasised that there had been no discussions with the Panel concerning the proposal that the Executive considered its removal or that the recommendations made by the Constitution Committee in its report at 3.01 to 3.08 be used in an alternative process. He also commented that the request that Executive note the recommendations made by the Constitution Committee in its report conflicted with the recommendation that the Panel ceased to exist.

Councillor J.B. Attridge stated that the purpose for establishing the Panel was to ensure that the process for appointment of LEA Governors was open, fair and transparent. Councillor Q.R.H. Dodd concurred with the comments expressed by Councillor Attridge and said it was important that procedures were subjected to scrutiny.

In response to the statements made by the initiators of the Call-In, the Executive Member for Education explained that when the Panel was set up it had not been envisaged that it would be dealing with the appointment of all LEA Governors. As a result a significant back-log of undisputed appointments had built up which had subsequently created difficulties for school Governing Bodies. The Director of Lifelong Learning emphasised the need for suitable and timely appointments to be made to Governing Bodies. He responded to the comments and concerns expressed by Members and reported on the ratification process which had been in place prior to the existence of the Panel and which could be applied for future nominations.

The Director and Staffing and Governance Manager explained that delays in the appointments process could occur for a number of reasons and advised that all outstanding nominations had now been ratified following a quorate meeting of the Panel. Councillor Peers stated that a backlog had not been created by the work of the Panel but had arisen as a result of delays in the nomination process and through lack of consultation with adjoining ward Members. He reported that the Panel had made a recommendation that a form of wording be included on the nomination form to request that adjoining Ward Members respond within 21 days or it would be considered that the nomination was acceptable. Councillor Dodd explained that the Panel did not have a fixed cycle of meetings but dealt with nominations regularly as the need arose.

At the end of the discussions the Chair invited the signatories to the Call-In to sum up their position. Councillor M.J. Peers thanked the Executive Member and Officers for their detailed and informative responses. The Member Engagement Manager explained the Committee's options for reaching a decision. Councillor J. B. Attridge proposed Option 3 which was seconded and on being put to the vote the proposal was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

That having considered the decision, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was still concerned about it and thus referred the decision back to the Executive.

**82. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting began at 10.00am and ended at 10.50pm.

**83. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**

There were no members of the press present

**84. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

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**Chairman**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

<b>LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>DATE: 9 MARCH 2012</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MIN. NO. REFERS</b>
<p>Councillors R.P. Macfarlane, J.B. Attridge, Q.R.H. Dodd, R Dolphin, F Gillmore, D.I. Mackie, D.L. Mackie, M.J. Peers and C.A. Thomas</p> <p><u>CO-OPTED MEMBERS:</u> Mr D Hytch and Mrs. T. Millington</p>	Panel for appointment of LEA Governors	81

**LIFELONG LEARNING**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**22 MARCH, 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday, 22 March 2012

**PRESENT:** Councillor R.P. Macfarlane (Chairman)  
Councillors: R.C. Bithell, J.C. Cattermoul, R. Dolphin, F. Gillmore, H.T. Isherwood, C. Legg and D.I. Mackie

**CO-OPTED MEMBER:** Mr. D. Hytch and Mrs. T. Millington

**SUBSTITUTION:** Councillor V. Gay for D.L. Mackie

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor K. Armstrong-Braun

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors E.F. Evans, H.T. Howorth, H.J. McGuill and W.O. Thomas. Ms. C. Burgess, Mrs. R. Price and Mrs. R. Stark

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Head of Schools Services, Head of Development and Resources, and Head of Culture and Leisure

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Member Engagement Manager, Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

**85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (including Whipping Declarations)**

The Chairman advised Members of the need to declare a personal interest in school related items on the agenda if they were school or college governors. All Members present except Councillor R.C. Bithell (who is not a school governor) declared an interest as school governors.

**86. MINUTES**

- (i) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16 January, 2012 and 19 January 2012 were submitted.
- (ii) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 February, 2012 were submitted.

**Accuracy**

Councillor C. Legg commented on a grammatical error in paragraph 1, page 18, and said the word Council's should be replaced by Councils'.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**87. WELSH EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP) FOR FLINTSHIRE 2012-2015**

The Head of Schools Services introduced a report to seek endorsement of the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for Flintshire Local Authority.

The Head of Service provided background information and commented on the positive feedback from the Members' workshop session which had been held on 31 January 2012 to consider specific outcomes within the plan. He advised that at the present time the Authority had not received feedback from the Department of Education and Skills (Dfes) and therefore was not in a position to convene any further meetings of the Forum which had been formulated to strategically plan, monitor and evaluate the Plan. Members were asked to consider the Draft WESP for Flintshire 2012-2015 which was attached to the report.

Councillor R.C. Bithell commended Officers on their work and achievements in the promotion of Welsh Medium education within the Authority. In terms of progressing Welsh medium education in non-Welsh medium schools, he suggested that any spare capacity in classroom space in schools could be utilised as a short term measure.

Councillor H.T. Isherwood emphasised the need to engage children at an early age and commented that the teaching of Welsh could start with children at nursery and reception level. She also suggested that the Authority could promote awareness of the opportunities for learning Welsh as a second language to Flintshire residents by sending information with its communications and cited Council Tax statements as an example.

Councillor Bithell referred to the data presented in Outcome 2.2, Key Stages 2 and 3 and requested that figures be provided on the number of Flintshire Welsh Medium learners that had transferred to Ysgol Glan Clwyd.

The Head of Service responded to the comments and questions raised and reported on the collaborative work undertaken between the Authority, Conway and Denbighshire to share resources.

Mr. D. Hytch said there was a need to make parents aware that all children had the right to attend welsh speaking schools and dispel the myth that it was the prerogative of welsh speaking children only.

During discussion Councillor D.I. Mackie proposed that the additional recommendation that the WESP Forum agree any necessary changes proposed to the WESP by the Welsh Government, be included to recommendations 4.01 and 4.02 in the report. This was agreed by the Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the progress made in the drafting and production of the WESP for Flintshire be noted;
- (b) That the draft strategic plan pending feedback for the Department of Education and Skills (DfeES) be endorsed;
- (c) That any changes proposed to the WESP by the Welsh Government be considered by the WESP Forum.

**88. ESTYN INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY EDUCATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Head of Schools Services introduced a report on the draft action plan following the 2011 Estyn Inspection of Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People (LAESCYP).

The Head of Service advised that several sections of the Inspection report had matched the Authority's own views of its progress and performance including support for additional learning needs, promoting social inclusion and well-being, access and school places, partnership working and resource management. However, the Authority had registered concerns about Estyn's judgement of 'adequate' in relation to 'standards'. He referred to the key performance outcomes for key stages 1, 2 3, and 4 which were attached to the report and commented that the achievements contradicted the statements within the Estyn report 'standards' section.

Members were asked to consider the post-inspection Action Plan which had been produced by a project team working closely with service partners. The Action Plan was due for submission to Estyn by 4 April 2012.

Councillor J.C. Cattermoul expressed a number of concerns around a decline in performance outcomes for key stage 2 between 2010 and 2011 and asked if the cause could be identified and explained. The Head of Service suggested that he arrange a meeting for Councillor Cattermoul with Mrs. C. Homard, Early Years Officer, to provide further information and clarification. The Chair advised that the subject of pupil attainment had been considered in detail at the meeting of the Committee held on 22 February 2012.

Councillor R.C. Bithell raised a number of concerns around teacher assessment, attendance records, school exclusions and school balances. Mr. D. Hytch questioned the accuracy and robustness of the statistical data considered and interpreted by Estyn.

The Head of Service responded to the comments and questions raised and gave an assurance that discussions with Secondary and Primary Headteacher Federations were focussed on identifying the causes of the issues raised within the Estyn report.

Councillor R.C. Bithell commented on the roles and responsibilities of Governing Bodies and suggested that training be provided for Members and school governors to assist them to address the issues raised in the Estyn report. The Head of Service concurred that it would be helpful if a programme of workshops were arranged on key issues concerning school improvement to inform Members and school governors.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be received;
- (b) That the Head of Service arrange a meeting between Councillor Cattermoul and Mrs. C. Homard, Early Years Officer, to provide further information on key stage 2 performance outcomes for 2010 and 2011; and
- (c) That a programme of workshops be arranged to address key issues concerning school improvement to inform Members and school governors.

**89. ARSON, VANDALISM, AND BURGLARIES TO FLINTSHIRE SCHOOLS**

The Head of Development and Resources introduced a report to update on the implementation of the recommendations submitted to and approved by the Executive early in 2006, regarding the review of measures taken to reduce and/or prevent arson, vandalism and burglaries to Flintshire schools.

The Head of Service commented on the progress which had been made since last year in implementing a number of measures in consultation with the Joint Action Group, School Security Group, and with schools to reduce incidents of arson, vandalism and burglary and make schools safer. He drew attention to the downward trend in costs for arson and vandalism, however, there was an increase in costs for burglary due to the general trend of metal thefts. In response to the concerns expressed by Members he outlined the preventative measures which were put in place to monitor and minimise the opportunities for such occurrences.

Councillor R.C. Bithell welcomed the preventative actions taken by the Authority. He referred to the training provided for school Caretakers and asked if attendance records were retained by the LEA. Councillor V. Gay suggested that it would be helpful if school governing bodies as well as headteachers were informed of the training provided and attended by school caretakers to assist them to fulfil their role and responsibilities.

Mr. D. Hytch commented that the preventative measures taken by the Authority to reduce and/or prevent incidents of crime was an excellent model of "invest to save".



**RESOLVED:**

That the update be noted.

**90. 14-19 EDUCATIONAL PROVISION**

The Head of Development and Resources provided a verbal update. He explained that there were no developments to report until an announcement on capital funding was received from the Welsh Government (WG). He also commented on the awaited outcome of the School Modernisation consultation process and advised that work would be started to produce a business case in the interim period.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update be noted.

**91. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2011/12**

The Chairman introduced a report to request that the Committee consider the 2011/12 Quarter 3 service performance reports, note the update on the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) contained within the performance reports and note progress made against the Improvement Target Action Plans contained within the performance reports.

**Schools Services**

The Head of Schools Services gave a short presentation to summarise key information including performance within each of the service areas, work undertaken to improve performance and any emerging issues.

Councillor H.T. Isherwood commented on the needs of young children who had vision or hearing problems and the detrimental impact this could have on their educational development if not diagnosed and supported. The Chair suggested that the matter be included as an agenda item for further discussion at a future meeting of the Committee.

Mr. D. Hytch commented on the revised format of quarterly reporting and expressed the view that the negative was accentuated rather than the positive achievements made by the Service. The Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator explained that the current format was a pilot and feedback would be provided to the Performance Leads meeting.

**Development and Resources**

The Head of Development and Resources provided an overview of the key messages across all work streams in Development and Resources and highlighted both good and poor performance in each service area.

The Head of Service referred to the School Modernisation Area Schools Review and advised that a new phase of area review consultations was underway and would be completed by 27 April 2012. Responses would be considered during early Summer and a second round of consultation would begin late Summer. He reported that the Welsh Government had announced the approval in principle for a £64M investment in the Holywell and Connah's Quay areas under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, however, the Authority would need to fund 50% of the cost. In response to Members' comments he explained that the Authority could not proceed with the projects until all funding was in place and it was satisfied that the 50% contribution to costs could be met.

The Head of Service responded to the questions raised by Councillor R.C. Bithell and H.T. Isherwood concerning a review of special/mainstream school and college transport. He also responded to the concerns made by Councillor V. Gay concerning the restructure of the Youth Strategy.

### Culture and Leisure

The Head of Culture and Leisure gave an overview of the key issues across all work streams in Culture and Leisure. He reported on the performance within each of the service areas, outlining work undertaken to improve performance and areas where improvement was needed, as outlined within the report.

The Head of Service reported on the re-development work at Leisure Services within the Authority and highlighted the work undertaken at Deeside Leisure Centre in relation to Phase 2c and Phase 3. He advised that the number of recorded visitors to leisure centres in Quarter 3 2011/12 had risen by 7.15% on the figure for Quarter 3 2010/11.

The Head of Service responded in detail to the questions raised by Councillor R.C. Bithell concerning energy consumption at Deeside Leisure Centre, QUEST (UK Quality & Improvement Scheme for Sport & recreation), the Free Swimming Initiative, the introduction of a mobile library service for Bagillt, visits to the County Record Office.

In response to a request from Councillors Bithell and V. Gay concerning the development of a library for Saltney, the Head of Service gave an update on progress and developments to date. He advised that a feasibility study had been undertaken to consider the development of a multi function centre on the site adjacent to Morrison's supermarket. He also commented that there was a need to consider other site options within the area and if deemed suitable an options appraisal would then be put forward to the Executive.

Members congratulated the Head of Service and his Team on the success of the recent developments at Deeside Leisure Centre.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the reports be noted; and
- (b) That an item on the educational development of children with sensory impairment be included on the Forward Work Programme for future consideration by the Committee.

**92. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator introduced the Forward Work Programme of the Committee. She advised Members that the next meeting of the Committee on 29 March 2012 would be a joint meeting with Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members reviewed the current programme and agreed that the following items be considered at the next meeting of the Committee:

- Children and Young People Plan
- Educational Attainment of Looked After Children
- Corporate Parenting
- Wrexham and Flintshire Local Safeguarding Children's Board
- Flying Start

**RESOLVED:**

That the Forward Work Programme be agreed.

**93. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was one member of the press in attendance and no members of the public present.

**94. DURATION OF THE MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and concluded at 5.40 p.m.

.....

**Chairman**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S  
CODE OF CONDUCT**

<b>LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>		<b>DATE: 22 March, 2012</b>
<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTE NO.</b>
Councillors: J.C. Cattermoul, R. Dolphin, F. Gillmore, H.T. Isherwood, C. Legg, D.I. Mackie and R.P. Macfarlane	Estyn inspection of local authority education services for children and young people	88
<u>Co-opted Members:</u> Mr. D. Hytch and Mrs. T. Millington	Arson, Vandalism, and Burglaries to Flintshire Schools	89

**JOINT MEETING OF  
LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND  
SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
29 MARCH, 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday, 29 March, 2012.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: D. Barratt, R.C. Bithell, D.L. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Dolphin, H.T. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, C. Legg, D.I. Mackie, R.P. Macfarlane, H.J. McGuill, E.W. Owen, C.A. Thomas and W.O. Thomas

**CO-OPTED MEMBER:** Mrs. R. Stark

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors M. Bateman, A. Davies-Cooke, E.F. Evans, F. Gillmore, D.L. Mackie and D. McFarlane. Ms. C. Burgess, Mr. D. Hytch and Mrs. T. Millington

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Executive Member for Education, Executive Member for Social Services, Director of Lifelong Learning, Director of Community Services, Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator, Service Manager Resources, and Principal Learning Advisor

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

**95. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**

At the start of the meeting the Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator sought nominations for a Chairman.

**RESOLVED**

That Councillor R.P. Macfarlane be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

**96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (including Whipping Declarations)**

The Chairman advised Members of the need to declare a personal interest in school related items on the agenda if they were school or college governors. All Members present except Councillor R.C. Bithell (who is not a school governor) declared an interest as school governors.

**97. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011-2014 'MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE'**

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report to inform of progress and achievements within the Children and Young People's (CYP)

Plan 2011-2014 'Making a Positive Difference' which records what work needs to be done, and by whom, to achieve improved outcomes for children, young people and families in Flintshire. He introduced Ann Roberts, Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator, and invited her to give a presentation on the CYP Plan.

The Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator provided background information and advised that 'Making a Positive Difference' was for everyone aged 0-19 years in Flintshire, as well as youth services and services provided to young people leaving care up to the age of 25 years. The vision for the 2011-2014 plan was "All Flintshire children, young people and families will be safe, healthy and free from poverty, disadvantage and inequalities of opportunity". The Children and Young People's Plan had identified shared priorities with the Health Social Care and Well-being strategy.

The Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator reported on the achievements relating to the seven Action Area priorities contained within the CYP Plan. She also gave a presentation on a DVD that bilingual students had developed with the CYPP as the children and young people friendly version of the CYPP Plan which had enabled access to the CYPP Plan message for all children, young people and families in a children and young people friendly approach.

In response to a question from Councillor H.J. McGuill the Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator explained that the DVD would be shown to pupils in Primary and Secondary schools. She said that the purpose of the DVD was to inform young people where they could go to get help and would be used in sessions with support staff.

Councillor McGuill raised further questions around the support provided for talented children. The Director of Lifelong Learning commented on the support provided based on participation through to progression to ensure youngsters achieved their potential. He advised that the Authority continued to monitor whether all youngsters were able to access good sporting and cultural opportunities. Officers responded in detail to the questions raised by Members concerning charges for tuition provided outside the curriculum.

During discussion Officers responded to the comments and queries raised by Members concerning the issues of domestic and family abuse, and work in conjunction with Barnardos.

The Chairman thanked the Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator for her presentation and detailed responses to Members' questions.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the report be received; and

- (b) That the Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator be thanked for her presentation and detailed responses to Members' questions.

**98. ATTAINMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report to provide an update on the attainment of Looked After Children in Flintshire – March 2012 and invited David Messum, Principal Learning Advisor, to provide an overview of the attainment of Looked After Children.

The Principal Learning Advisor advised that the data was based on the last day of the academic year 2010/2011 for pupils in care on that day, regardless of how long they had been in care, and who were of statutory school age (between 5 and 16 years). He reported on the data which had been grouped into four age groups corresponding to National Curriculum Key Stages 1 to 4.

Councillor R.C. Bithell emphasised the need for early intervention in terms of those children whose difficulties are not so clearly defined. Councillor H.T. Isherwood commented on the need for an holistic approach which encompassed parents who may themselves have learning difficulties, emotional or social behavioural difficulties. Councillor H.J. McGuill sought further clarification from the Principal Learning Advisor on the number of Looked After Children in Pupil Referral Units.

Councillor E.W. Owen expressed his appreciation for the hard work and commitment undertaken by Flintshire Foster Carers to assist Looked After Children to achieve their full potential.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the attainment of Looked After Children continues to be closely monitored and reported on;
- (b) That the new literacy and numeracy strategy (from June onwards in Wales) be used to further identify and upskill those children and young people who may not be achieving to their potential;
- (c) That those children who have Additional Learning Needs (ALN) continue to access specialist support to help them reach their potential;
- (d) The Social Services and Lifelong Learning Directorates continue to work collaboratively to further enhance and embed consistent approaches with regard to Looked After Children; and
- (e) That there is a continuation of support for Looked After Children from the School Effectiveness Grant from the Welsh Government.

**99. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

The Director of Community Services introduced a progress report on the joint Flintshire and Wrexham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The Director provided background information and advised that the Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB was operational with an agreed structure in place. The LSCB Executive Board had agreed its vision and developed and approved its three year strategic plan and annual business plan which was attached to the report. The Board had also formally endorsed its constitution and budget contributions.

The Director introduced Peter Robson, Service Manager Resources, and invited him to give an overview of the work and progress made to date to promote the involvement of and consultation with Children, Young People, Parents and Carers in the development and review of the work of the LSCB. Members were informed that the joint LSCB had undertaken an annual self assessment using the Welsh Government LSCB Self Assessment and Improvement Tool. The self assessment would support the LSCB in measuring its effectiveness, identifying areas of development, and would inform the content of the business plan for the following year. The Board would develop an annual report of its work which would be made available and published on its web pages early 2012/13. The Director advised that one of the potential projects for the future was the development of a junior LSCB.

During discussion Members raised concerns regarding WG plans to regionalise safeguarding boards. The view held by Members was that whilst there were some benefits to a regional board there was a need to retain an appropriate local emphasis.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update be noted.

**100. ANNUAL UPDATE ON CORPORATE PARENTING ACTIVITY**

The Director of Community Services introduced a report to provide an update on activity surrounding the corporate parenting responsibilities of the County Council which were first set out in "Circles of Care – Corporate Parenting in Flintshire".

The Director provided background information and reported that the main corporate parenting activity within the Authority centred around the work of the Children's Services Forum which was assisted by two participation groups. He emphasised the importance of corporate parenting as a key task for Members and advised that the annual activity update on corporate parenting within the Authority was appended to the report.



Councillor R.C. Bithell commented on the need for Members to have more direct contact in their role as corporate parents with Looked after Children and Children in Leaving Care. Councillor H.J. McGuill requested that training be provided for Members following the elections in May on their role and responsibilities as Corporate Parents. She also referred to the proposal that Looked After Children and Children in Leaving Care be provided with a contact card so that they can get in touch with the Member(s) of the Ward in which they live when they needed to.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update be noted.

**101. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There was one member of the press in attendance and no members of the public present.

**102. DURATION OF THE MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 12.10 p.m.

.....  
**Chairman**

**SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S**  
**CODE OF CONDUCT**

<b>LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>		<b>DATE: 29 March, 2012</b>
<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTE NO.</b>
Councillors: D. Barratt, R.C. Bithell, D.L. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Dolphin, H.T. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, C. Legg, D.I. Mackie, R.P. Macfarlane, H.J. McGuill, E.W. Owen, C.A. Thomas and W.O. Thomas  <u>Co-opted Member:</u> Mrs. R. Stark	Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 'Making a Positive Difference'	97
	Attainment of Looked After Children	98
	Flintshire and Wrexham Local Safeguarding Children Board	99
	Annual update on Corporate Parenting Activity	100

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

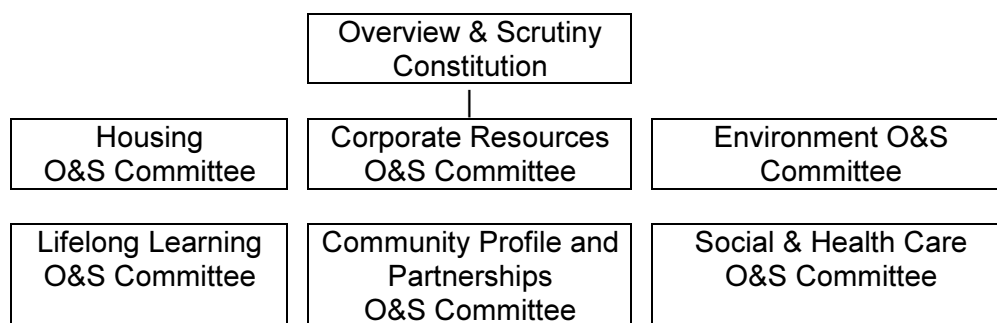
**REPORT TO:** LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012  
**REPORT BY:** MEMBER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES' TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To inform the Committee of its Terms of Reference, set in the context of Terms of Reference of all of the Overview & Scrutiny committees.

### 2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 The Council now has a Constitution Committee and six functional Overview & Scrutiny Committees, as follows:



### 2.02 **The role and functions of Overview & Scrutiny Committees**

Article 6 of the Constitution sets out the powers of Overview & Scrutiny Committees within Flintshire. The following extract is particularly apposite.

#### 6.02 **General role**

Within their terms of reference, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:

- i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's or Executive's functions;
- ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Executive; and/or any joint Committee.

- iii) consider any matter affecting the Council area or its inhabitants; and
- iv) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive.

6.03 **Specific functions**

(a) **Policy development and review.** Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- i) assist the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- ii) conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- iv) question members of the Executive and/or Committees and Chief Officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- v) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

(b) **Scrutiny.** Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or Committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- iii) question members of the Executive and/or Committees and chief officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;

- iv) make recommendations to the Executive and/or appropriate Committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the Scrutiny process;
  - v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
  - vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).
- (c) **Finance.** Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them.
- (d) **Annual report.** Overview & Scrutiny Committees must report annually to full Council through the Overview & Scrutiny Constitution Committee on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.
- (e) **Officers.** Overview & Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the work programme of the officers employed to support their work.

#### 6.04 **Proceedings of Overview & Scrutiny Committees**

Overview & Scrutiny Committees will conduct their proceedings in accordance with the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

**2.03** Specific Overview & Scrutiny training sessions will be held on 22 May, 6 and 7 June, to which all Members of the Council have been invited. There will be plenty of opportunities for Members to ask questions during the training, but if any Member requires information or wants to ask questions, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Overview & Scrutiny team. The contact details were published in the packs available at the 'Your Council' event. Otherwise, the contact details of the Head of Overview & Scrutiny are at the end of this report.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

**3.01** The terms of reference of the Committees are attached at **Appendix 1**. The Committee is asked to note its terms of reference and those of the other Overview & Scrutiny Committees, and make

any observations which are pertinent for onward transmission to the Constitution Committee.

**4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the report be noted.

**5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

Not applicable.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Not applicable.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

Not applicable.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

Not applicable.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

Overview & Scrutiny Committees' Terms of Reference

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

None

**Contact Officer: Margaret Parry-Jones**

**Telephone: 01352 702427**

**Email: Margaret\_parry-jones@flintshire.gov.uk**

## Article 6 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

#### 6.01 Terms of reference

The Council will appoint the Overview and Scrutiny Committees set out in the left hand column of the table below to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 in relation to the matters set out in the right hand column of the same table.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Scope</b>
Co-ordinating 15 Elected Members	Allocating, co-ordinating and prioritising the work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees where necessary. Dealing with matters of common interest to overview and scrutiny. Identification/allocation of appropriate Scrutiny Chair for consent/consultation purposes. The examination and development of good scrutiny practice. The promotion, effective development and maintenance of a high profile Overview and Scrutiny Function to ensure maximum opportunity for non-executive member engagement. Liaison with and responding to the Welsh Assembly Government on emerging legislation relevant to O&S.
Corporate Resources 15 Elected Members	Corporate Management and Governance, organisational design/Flintshire Futures Programme, monitoring finance but not specific control issues which are within the remit of the Audit Committee, Revenue and Capital Budget monitoring, Asset Management, Strategy and Planning, People Strategy and Single Status, Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges, Overview and Coordination of the Performance Management, Performance and Policy development for all 4 Corporate Services: HR and OD, ICT and Customer Services, Finance, Legal & Democratic Services.
Community Profile & Partnerships 15 Elected (Statutory Crime & Disorder Committee)	Community Strategy and Leadership initiatives. All external and regional collaboration and partnership working with other public service bodies. Local Service Board. Community Safety Partnership. Statutory Crime & Disorder Committee, thus relationship with the Police, Fire, Probation etc, Voluntary Sector compact, Clwyd Theatre Cymru, Cross Cutting Policy issues, the Outcome Agreement, but excluding issues specifically remitted to another committee (eg. NWRWTP, TAITH or DCELLS)
Environment 15 Elected Members	All services provided by the Environment Directorate including: Assets & Transportation, including TAITH, highways, engineering and energy issues but not valuation/estates which are specifically remitted to the Corporate Resources OSC. Planning, including planning and environmental strategy,

	<p>development control, minerals and waste planning, countryside and the environment.</p> <p>Public Protection, including community, health protection and environmental protection.</p> <p>Regeneration, including Communities First, economic development &amp; tourism, enterprise and the Regeneration Partnership.</p> <p>Street Scene Services, including AD Waste, environmental and waste management, neighbourhood services and the vehicle fleet.</p> <p>Performance and Policy.</p> <p>Development within the Environment Directorate.</p>
<p>Housing</p> <p>15 Elected Members</p>	<p>All housing services provided by the relevant divisions of the Community Services Directorate eg. Housing Management, Housing Strategy, Stock Ballot progress and ongoing work relating to the future of the housing stock.</p> <p>Neighbourhood housing renewal areas.</p> <p>Performance and policy development for the Housing Service.</p>
<p>Lifelong Learning</p> <p>15 Elected Members</p> <p>(5 Statutory Co-Opted Members)</p>	<p>All services provided by the Lifelong Learning Directorate:</p> <p>Education – school organisation, School Improvement, Early Years, Special Educational needs.</p> <p>Adult and Community Learning, Youth Services</p> <p>Libraries, Culture and Heritage including archives, records management and museums.</p> <p>Leisure Services, including leisure and sports centres, swimming pools and recreational facilities/activities.</p> <p>Relations with external education providers/partners – Deeside College, Glyndwr University etc on service specific issues.</p> <p>Relations with DCELLS, Children and Young People’s Partnership (jointly with S &amp; HC O&amp;S).</p> <p>Performance and policy development for services within the Lifelong Learning Directorate.</p>
<p>Social and Health Care</p> <p>15 Elected Members</p>	<p>Services provided by the Community Services Directorate relating to:</p> <p>Social Services to Adults, Social Services to Children, Social &amp; Health Care Strategy Development, Children and Young People’s Partnership (jointly with Lifelong Learning O&amp;S).</p> <p>Monitoring service delivery by the Health Services Providers and Voluntary sector including the relationship with Betsi Cadwaladr UHB.</p> <p>Health Social Care and Well-being partnership and the Good Health Good Care Strategy.</p> <p>Policy and Performance development within the Social Care and Development and Resources Division of the Community Services Directorate.</p>

## 6.02 General role

Within their terms of reference, Overview and Scrutiny Committees will:



- i) review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's or Executive's functions;
- ii) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Executive; and/or any joint Committee.
- iii) consider any matter affecting the Council area or its inhabitants; and
- iv) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive.

### 6.03 Specific functions

(a) **Policy development and review.** Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- i) assist the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- ii) conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- iii) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- iv) question members of the Executive and/or Committees and Chief Officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- v) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

(b) **Scrutiny.** Overview and Scrutiny Committees may:

- i) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or Committees and Council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- ii) review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- iii) question members of the Executive and/or Committees and chief officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- iv) make recommendations to the Executive and/or appropriate Committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the Scrutiny process;
- v) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance; and

vi) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

(c) **Finance.** Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them.

(d) **Annual report.** Overview and Scrutiny Committees must report annually to full Council through the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

(e) **Officers.** Overview and Scrutiny Committees may exercise overall responsibility for the work programme of the officers employed to support their work.

#### **6.04 Proceedings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

Overview and Scrutiny Committees will conduct their proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012  
**REPORT BY:** LEARNING AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY FACILITATOR  
**SUBJECT:** FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report to the committee on work which was left outstanding at the end of the municipal year. To outline how topics can be brought to Overview & Scrutiny and to suggest items to be included on the Forward Work Programme for the successor committee to consider.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

**2.01** Experienced Overview & Scrutiny Members will be aware that items feed into a committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Individual Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny committees; members of the public can suggest topics; items can be referred by the Executive for consultation purposes; items can be referred by the County Council, or Directors can request that a committee gives a view on a particular topic.

**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. Are there issues of weak or poor performance?
3. How, where and why were the issues identified?
4. Do local communities think the issues are important and is there any evidence of this? Is there evidence of public dissatisfaction?

**2.03**

5. Is there new Government guidance or legislation?
6. Have inspections been carried out?
7. 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 Programmes of the committees of which they are Members.

**3.02** The committee had a number of items still waiting to be scheduled, together with a series of regular items upon which it has previously decided that it wished to receive updates on a regular basis. These items are identified in **Appendix 1** together with a schedule of the meetings of the committee as agreed at County Council on 21 February 2012 in the form of a draft Forward Work Programme.

**4.00** **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the committee has regard to the considerations above, and identifies a draft Forward Work Programme for the forthcoming periods: (i) June - July 2012 and (ii) September 2012- April 2013.

**5.00** **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**6.00** **ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

Not applicable.

**7.00** **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

**8.00** **EQUALITIES IMPACT**

Not applicable.

**9.00** **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

**10.00** **CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

Not applicable.

**11.00** **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

**12.00** **APPENDICES**

Draft Forward Work Programme.

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

None

**Contact Officer:** Margaret Parry-Jones  
**Telephone:** 01352 702305  
**Email:** Margaret\_parry-jones@flintshire.gov.uk



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**DRAFT**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Session</b>	<b>Scrutiny Focus</b>	<b>Responsible/ Contact Officer</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>
<b>12 July</b>	To be determined Q 4 Performance Report ?  14 – 19 educational provision	To enable members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Performance Monitoring	Director of Lifelong Learning	<b>2 July</b>
<b>20 September</b>	To be determined				
<b>25 October</b>	To be determined				
<b>6 December</b>	To be determined				
<b>10 January</b>	To be determined				
<b>14 February</b>	To be determined				
<b>21 March</b>	To be determined				
<b>25 April</b>	To be determined				
<b>6 June</b>	To be determined				

Date	Item	Purpose of Report/Session	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/ Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
11 July	To be determined				

**Regular monitoring reports**

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
February	Pupil Attainment	To provide Members with a summary of pupil attainment across primary and secondary school phases for the school year.	Director of Lifelong Learning
March	Children & Young People Plan	Monitoring report	Director of Lifelong Learning
March	Educational Attainment of Looked After Children	To receive the annual educational attainment report (joint meeting with Social & Health)	Director of Lifelong Learning
Feb/March	Incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire Schools	Annual update report to review progress	Director of Lifelong Learning
November 2010 onwards	School Balances	To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by school at the end of the financial year	Director of Lifelong Learning
November	School Exclusions	Annual monitoring report to ensure effective mechanisms remain in place for exclusions, together with appropriate levels of intervention and support	Director of Lifelong Learning
Quarterly	Performance Monitoring	To enable members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Chief Executive/Director of Lifelong Learning

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**Item to be Scheduled**

- Formula Review update / Budget Strategy
- School Modernisation - ongoing
- Cost of repairs and maintenance – School buildings
- Regional Transport Update
- Report on Community Play Scheme