

Public Document Pack

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



To: Cllr Ian Roberts (Chairman)

CS/NG

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

8 March 2013

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

**Carole Burgess, David Hytch, Mrs. R. Price,
Rebecca Stark and Stephanie Williams**

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 MARCH, 2013** at **2.00 PM** to consider the following items.

Yours faithfully

Democracy & Governance Manager

AGENDA

- 1 **APOLOGIES**
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING
DECLARATIONS)**
- 3 **MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 18)

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

County Hall, Mold. CH7 6NA
Tel. 01352 702400 DX 708591 Mold 4
www.flintshire.gov.uk
Neuadd y Sir, Yr Wyddgrug. CH7 6NR
Ffôn 01352 702400 DX 708591 Mold 4
www.siryfflint.gov.uk

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

- 4 **ESTYN MONITORING OF FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**
To receive a verbal update from the Director of Lifelong Learning
- 5 **SCHOOL MODERNISATION UPDATE** (Pages 19 - 24)
Report of Director of Lifelong Learning enclosed
- 6 **SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY** (Pages 25 - 28)
Report of Director of Lifelong Learning enclosed
- 7 **FLINTSHIRE PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT & ACTION PLAN** (Pages 29 - 52)
Report of Director of Lifelong Learning enclosed
- 8 **LIFELONG LEARNING Q3 PERFORMANCE REPORT** (Pages 53 - 84)
Report of Housing and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
- 9 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 85 - 90)
Report of Housing and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator

Agenda Item 3

LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **25 JANUARY 2013**

Minutes of the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Friday, 25 January 2013

PRESENT: Councillor I.B. Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors: A. Bragg, A.I. Dunbar, R.G. Hampson, S. Jones, C. Legg, D.I. Mackie, N.M. Matthews, W.P. Shotton, N.R. Steele-Mortimer and C.A. Thomas

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Mr. D. Hytch and Mrs. R. Stark

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors: J.B. Attridge and R. Jones

APOLOGIES:

Councillors: M. Bateman and P. Lightfoot. Chief Executive.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Cabinet Member for Education, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Enterprise and Leisure, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Finance, Head of Development and Resources, Head of Culture and Leisure, Finance Manager, and Finance Accountant

IN ATTENDANCE:

Member Engagement Manager and Committee Officer

49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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 Councillors R.C. Bithell, A. Bragg, W. P. Shotton, and A.I. Dunbar (who were not school governors) declared an interest as school governors.

50. BUDGET CONSULTATION FOR 2013/14

The Chairman welcomed the contributors to the meeting.

The Head of Finance explained that an overview of the budget was being provided for each Overview & Scrutiny Committee with the budget proposals for the specific area covered by each Committee detailed at the meetings.

The Head of Finance explained she was making a similar presentation to each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and that the Director of Lifelong Learning, together with officers from Lifelong Learning, would present on directorate specific aspects of the budget. The main features of the presentation were as follows:-

- National and Local context
- Council Fund Budget Strategy

- Budget Process
- Financial Overview
- Ongoing work
- Next Steps

The Director of Lifelong Learning continued with the directorate specific contents of the presentation and reported on the budget proposals and key service issues concerning:

- Pressures/Investments
- Efficiencies
- Live issues for the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Key Service issues for Lifelong Learning in the medium term

The comments and questions which were raised by Members of the Committee, and the responses given are attached at Appendix 1.

Councillor C.A. Thomas reported on the Playschemes Task and Finish Group which had been formed to consider the arrangements for play schemes for 2013 and beyond. She advised that at the meeting of the Group held on 23 January 2013 the following proposal was put forward for submission to the Committee:

That having considered the available evidence, the Group proposed that Town and Community Councils who normally had more than two settings, which wanted to keep them and were prepared to match fund, would have the opportunity to do so, supported by match funding from Flintshire County Council. The Group emphasised the importance of maintaining positive relationships and working in partnership with Town and Community Councils and maintaining some consistency of provision within the budget restraints. The Group recommended a pressure bid of up to £11,700 to support the match funding scheme.

The proposal put forward by Councillor Thomas as Chair of the Group was seconded by Mr. D. Hytch and when put to the vote became the resolution of the Committee.

Councillor Thomas also requested that an item on the Youth Service be included on the Forward Work Programme for future consideration by the Committee and this was agreed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the presentation be noted;
- (b) That the Committee recommended a pressure bid of up to £11,700 to support the match funding scheme; and
- (c) That an item on the Youth Service be included on the Forward Work Programme for the Committee.

51. DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and ended at 12.15 p.m.

52. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

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

.....
Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
Lifelong Learning - Initial Budget Proposals 2013/14

No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
1.0	<u>Corporate Comments / Issues</u>	
1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will fees and charges be increased by 3 % across the board with consequent implications for users of the Council's youth centres? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be a general 3 % increase on fees and charges but also targeted increases resulting from specific proposals. The Youth Service is currently subsidising other users of its premises from within its own budget.
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the Leisure Services budget have to cover the loan repayments for the new developments? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. The loan repayments are paid for out of the Leisure Services budget on the basis that these additional costs to the service will be covered by the increase in facilities charges.
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A query was raised regarding the effects of inflation on schools energy budgets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is included within the delegation to schools, however, we are aiming to target energy inflation at those schools with higher inflationary pressures on energy we are also working with colleagues in Energy Services with a view to encouraging alternative forms of energy to replace oil, e.g. woodchips.
2.0	<u>Lifelong Learning Comments / Issues</u>	
2.1	<u>General Comments/Issues</u>	
2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the budget for schools ever top-sliced within a financial year? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. The Council doesn't top-slice the schools budget in-year.
2.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback was given on the Play schemes Task and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be considered alongside other bids within the

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
Lifelong Learning - Initial Budget Proposals 2013/14

No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
	<p>Finish group, with a request that £11,700 be added as a budget pressure to facilitate match funding to increase the new base provision of 3 weeks and 2 sites.</p>	<p>budget process.</p>
2.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will faster broadband be delivered to schools as promised by Welsh Government? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New grant funding of £39m across all Wales for 3 years has been approved by Welsh Government. This funding is to improve the broadband connections in schools and for the schools to purchase additional hardware.
2.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will increasing the fees and charges in Leisure Centres only lead to less people attending? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful benchmarking has been undertaken. Fees were increased in January and there was no drop-off in income.
2.1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding Play Areas - can we look at meeting the higher number of requests from Town and Community Councils? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This request will be looked at.
2.1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does it cost the Council extra money when a teacher retires? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This can depend on the individual circumstances of individual cases. Where this occurs for a school with a delegated budget the school would be able to capitalise the cost whereas the Council would be unable to.
2.1.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there a lack of marketing for new developments at Deeside Leisure Centre? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members and Officers are conscious of the need for marketing and are currently using a targeted approach including development of a strategy with Alliance Leisure.
2.1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification was sought on the delegation of Schools maternity pay costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An amount is included in the Council's budget to stabilise the funding. The Directorate is currently working with

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
Lifelong Learning - Initial Budget Proposals 2013/14

No.	Comments and Questions:	Responses:
2.1.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently problems with parking at Buckley Leisure Centre which could perhaps be overcome by using additional parking at Ysgol Elfed subject to the need for CCTV. Is CCTV included within the budget? 	<p>schools to come up with an agreed scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A capital bid is being prepared relating to a number of issues at the Buckley Leisure Centre site.
2.1.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A query was raised regarding schools paying for the costs of swimming lessons for pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children have an entitlement to swimming lessons under the Curriculum Entitlement (Wales) Regulations.
2.2		
2.2.1	<p><u>Pressures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are we giving Special Schools extra funding for the extra work that they are doing, which is proving invaluable in reducing the number and costs of our Out of County placements? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pressure amount of £0.250m has been included in the budget proposals to help improve staffing levels. The special schools are proving to be a real success story for Flintshire.

This page is intentionally left blank

LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
14 FEBRUARY 2013

Minutes of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday 14 February 2013.

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors M. Bateman, A. Bragg, I.A. Dunbar, R. Hampson, S. Jones, C. Legg, P. Lightfoot, D.I. Mackie, N.M. Matthews, P. Shotton, N. Steele-Mortimer, C.A. Thomas.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Mr D. Hytch, Mrs C. Burgess

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor P. Macfarlane

APOLOGIES: Councillor C. Bithell, Mrs R. Stark

CONTRIBUTORS: Director of Lifelong Learning, Secondary Schools Officer, Healthy Schools Officer

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

49. 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 Councillors R.G. Hampson, P. Shotton, I.A. Dunbar, A. Bragg and P.R. Lightfoot (who were not school governors) declared an interest as school governors.

50. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 January 2013 were submitted.

Accuracy

Mr D Hytch said that on page 5, paragraph 2, his concern was not about the effects of recent school amalgamations on the budget, but the annual reduction of the budget.

Councillor N. Steele-Mortimer said that the final paragraph of page 1 was not clear. The Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator advised that the letter that was referred to was the one sent in December 2012.

Matters Arising

Councillor P. Shotton asked that thanks be conveyed via the Director to the officers who arranged the recent full page newspaper promotion for the Afon Spa.

Councillor I.A. Dunbar reported favourable feedback about the “Bogstandard” website by a local school and that their toilet facilities would be updated in the next quarter. The Director of Lifelong Learning said that this would continue to be a priority in the capital programme.

RESOLVED:

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

51. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed Officers from the Wales Audit Office (WAO) and the Peer Learning Exchange Team from Wrexham County Council to the meeting who attended as part of the WAO Scrutiny Improvement Study.

52. PUPIL ATTAINMENT 2011-12

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced the report which gave a summary of pupil attainment in statutory assessments across the primary and secondary school phases for the school year 2011-12.

The following key points of the report were highlighted:

- Permanent exclusions were low.
- Progress was being made with fixed term exclusions
- Attendance in secondary schools still high
- Attendance for primary schools had improved over the last two years and is now amongst top performing counties.
- Pupil outcomes were above expectations at KS4
- Pupil outcomes were broadly in line with expectations at KS3.
- The number of primary schools causing concern in accordance with Flintshire criteria had decreased from 15 down to 11.

The Secondary Schools Officer gave a detailed report on the secondary performance and was pleased to report that outcomes remained very good at KS4 in the main quality indicator which measured the proportion of learners who achieved 5 or more GCSE passes at A* to C including Maths, English/Welsh 1st Language.

The Chair thanked the members who had contributed to the work of the school monitoring group.

Councillor P. Shotton thanked the officers for the thorough report. He acknowledged the challenges faced in Foundation and Key Stage 2, particularly those from deprived areas and asked if any activities had been arranged for World Book Day on 7 March to promote literacy. The Director of Lifelong Learning said that children in the foundation stage should have the best possible start to their school career and that in the previous year, 100 of the most vulnerable families had received support from Families First and this was making a real difference in terms of attendance, attitudes to learning and behaviour. He said that World Book Day would be celebrated in schools and in libraries.

Councillor C. A. Thomas voiced concern at the apparent lack of boundaries within the Foundation Phase, how consistently the phase had been implemented and how pupils coped upon entry into the more structured Key Stage 2 in year 3. She asked at which stage would early intervention be implemented, asked for more information about school attendance figures and asked if there were plans to assess and band primary schools. She asked about testing for ages 5-15 from September. The Director of Lifelong Learning in response said that there had been a 0.3% downturn in primary attendance, partly attributable to schools that were kept open during a spell of bad weather. This has been followed by two years of improved primary attendance with relative primary performance now in line or above expectations. He added that Flintshire had a good attendance management practices which involved the inclusion and welfare service and multi agency interventions where appropriate. With regards to testing, assessments would be more rigorous, concentrating on literacy and numeracy. In terms of banding for primaries, there would be performance profiles for primaries. The Director of Lifelong Learning said that had there had been concerns about how Foundation Phase had been implemented in some schools. In these cases, there had been relevant training and development for staff put in place. With regards to intervention, assessments were made regarding developmental progress throughout the foundation phase.

Mr Hytch thanked officers for the report. He said that the banding mechanism for secondary schools may be flawed, but that a mechanism was needed to prompt under performing schools into action. He agreed that it was important to focus on testing of literacy and numeracy as poor skills in these areas would cause difficulties in other subjects. He welcomed the results on page 37 that proved that other subjects fared well in addition to English, Maths and Science.

Councillor M. Bateman said that she had concerns about Foundation Phase and wanted proof of more rigorous assessment. She added that Flintshire had been underperforming in primary for some time and asked for reasons why Flintshire pupils were underperforming in entrance assessments. The Director of Lifelong Learning said that there were a variety of reasons and that it was not possible to isolate a single general factor. Examples included parents and families who required support and schools with children who spoke English as an additional language. He also noted that assessments were not consistently applied within every school.

Councillor N. M. Matthews said that parents if entitled to free school meals should take up the offer as it affected pupil premium payments and performance statistics. She also asked about what could be done to stop parents taking children out of school to go on holiday. The Director of Lifelong Learning said that schools tried to discourage holidays during term time and that Flintshire recognised the importance of attendance and wanted to get 100% attendance in all of its schools. He said that there would be no movement away from national free school meals indicators and eligible parents should be encouraged to take up the offer. He added that Flintshire were not just focussing on pupils with free school meals, but also pupils with high level additional needs, English as an additional language and traveller children.

Councillor N. Steele-Mortimer asked about numbers of children who arrived at secondary school in need of additional help with numeracy and literacy. The Secondary phase officer said that some outcomes were below levels expected. A new initiative had been introduced whereby 12 outstanding KS2 literacy and numeracy teachers would share good practice with other teachers.

Councillor C. Legg asked if problems were caused by low standards in Primary Teacher Training Colleges. He said that he was sorry that Latin was not on the curriculum in Wales as it could help with lots of other subjects. He was disappointed to see Flintshire 18th in the performance tables for Welsh as a first language. He said that many demands on Year 6 Key Stage 2 teachers such as moderation, portfolios and standardisation and recognise the lack of resources at KS2. He hoped that the formula funding review may address this. The Director of Lifelong Learning said that successful schools offered a good teaching and learning, high quality leadership and good governance. He did not think initial teacher training should be solely responsible for quality of teaching, but that it was important to consider professional development opportunities at every stage of a teacher's career.

RESOLVED

- (a) That members receive the report and note the attainment of Flintshire pupils for the year 2011-12.
- (b) That members receive a future report on analysis of learner progress from entry assessment and successful strategies for securing improved learner progression.

53. QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT ON PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ESTYN ACTION PLAN

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced the report to consider the progress made with implementation of the Action Plan following the 2011 Estyn Inspection of Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People.

The Director of Lifelong Learning highlighted the progress made in relation to key school organisation decisions such as the recent primary and junior school amalgamations, the closure of the smallest primary school and the options for secondary school re-organisation.

Councillor D.I. Mackie asked the Director of Lifelong Learning if the proposals for post -16 education provision had been favourably received. The Director of Lifelong Learning in response said that he was not aware of any issues. He advised that at the next Cabinet meeting there would be discussion about the consultation process for Saltney and Flint post-16 education provision.

Councillor D. I. Mackie said that the appendices were difficult to read and at 100% they did not fit upon a single screen page. He asked if this could be addressed.

The Leader of the Council welcomed the monitoring report which he said was very positive and that it was essential that Estyn saw that the council was making good progress.

Councillor A. Bragg asked how poor school attendance would be addressed and at what stage intervention occurred. The Director of Lifelong Learning said that various types of interventions were available from school inclusion welfare officers, to Families First and multi agency support. He said that patterns of absence or extended absence would be referred to Inclusion Welfare.

Councillor I. A. Dunbar asked how the achievement gap between girls' performance and boys' performance in schools would be addressed and if there were any initiatives for pupils who had lost interest in traditional school subjects. The Secondary Phase Officer said that although girls in Flintshire secondary schools outperformed boys, the gap was getting smaller. There was a variety of curriculum areas such as the learning route into engineering in conjunction with Deeside College which was available for year 10 students, some of which had gone on to study maths, physics or engineering. Other vocational courses were now offered in schools through the 14-19 network.

RESOLVED

That members consider progress with implementation of the Estyn Action Plan and accept the report.

54. HEALTHY SCHOOLS

The Healthy Schools Officer provided an update on recent developments within Flintshire Schools in relation to the Healthy Schools Scheme.

The Welsh Government launched Healthy Schools in 2010 which was a national framework, from pre-school to secondary school to encourage healthy lifestyle choices. All schools in Flintshire have now signed up to the initiative as well as 13 pre-school settings.

It is expected that by summer 2013, 50 Flintshire schools would be awarded Healthy school status.

Councillor P. Shotton asked if all beef products for consumption within schools had been checked in the light of current concerns about the quality of meat products. Councillor Shotton also asked if healthy foods were stocked in school vending machines. The Director of Lifelong Learning said that the procurement department had ran checks with the supply chain and that there was no evidence to suggest that beef products contained any other meat other than beef. He said that the council would continue to monitor the supply chain. The Healthy Schools Officer said that she would be conducting an audit of all secondary school vending machines and noting all non compliant items. She accepted that schools may resist controls as long as possible as they gained financially from the use of vending machines. She said that the most unhealthy items would be removed first such as energy drinks and sweets and that schools should start to run down stocks from Easter onwards and explain to pupils and parents that this was a national decision.

Councillor S. Jones said that there was a danger that vending machines stocked with healthy food only would be rejected by pupils and that there should be more cookery lessons in school to promote healthy eating. The Secondary Phase Officer said that food technology was a compulsory subject at Key Stage 3 and the Healthy Schools Officer said that food technology formed part of the Key Stage 2 curriculum.

Councillor M. Bateman said that the quality of school meals in her local schools was exemplary, but asked if schools could use separate plates for main courses and second courses rather than the two in one tray in use in many schools. The Healthy Schools Officer said that there could be cost implications in using two plates, but that a neighbouring council had implemented this so she would look into the matter.

Councillor N. M. Matthews said that vending machines provided funding for schools and that parents also had a responsibility to encourage health eating. The Director of Education said that it was all about a balance of personal, family and school responsibility.

The Healthy Schools Officer encouraged the committee to access the Appetite for Life web site which was currently seeking public consultation about healthy choices.

Mr D. Hytch said that if pupils were kept on site at lunch times that this would minimise unhealthy food choices. He expressed concern at a forthcoming planning application for a retail outlet which would be very close

to a Flintshire secondary school. The Chair suggested that the Board of Governors consult local planning policy and made their concerns known to the Council. The Healthy Schools Officer said that Wrexham Borough Council had established a planning measure which forbid the approval of fast food/retail establishments within a 100 metre radius of schools.

RESOLVED:

That members note the report and contents.

55. INCIDENTS OF ARSON, VANDALISM AND BURGLARIES IN FLINTSHIRE SCHOOLS

The Director for Lifelong Learning introduced a report to update members on the measures taken to reduce and/or prevent arson, vandalism and burglaries to Flintshire schools. He noted that there had been a reduction in incidents and costs and minimal disruption as a result.

The Leader of the Council said that the OWL messaging had assisted in the reduction of crime and urged all members to sign up to the scheme if they had not already done so. He added that funding for the scheme from the Home Office was under review and asked that members lobbied the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to retain the service.

Councillor A. Bragg said that she had already spoken to the PCC and he was very keen to retain the service and to reintroduce Farm Watch Scheme. She added that the Police and Crime Commissioner had been invited to attend the full Council meeting and Community and Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March.

Councillor S. Jones asked if the WLGA could write to the North Wales counties in the west to see if they wished to join the OWL scheme. The Leader of the Council said that the western counties had their own schemes.

RESOLVED:

That members note developments so far and receive a report in 12 months time.

56. SALTNEY LIBRARY UPDATE

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced the report to update members on work to provide a permanent library in Saltney.

- A temporary facility was currently in operation for 14 hours per week
- In August 2009 the Council entered into a section 106 agreement with Morrisons Supermarkets which involved the transfer of a parcel of land adjacent to the new super store to Flintshire County Council
- The parcel of land was to be used to accommodate a new library.
- The agreement stipulated a 7 year timescale for the agreement.

- A steering group was set up to investigate the provision of a multi use building on the site.
- A feasibility study commissioned by the group found that initial costs for such a building ranged from £1.1m to £2m
- Insufficient funding was in place at the time and it was decided that an options appraisal be undertaken.
- The options appraisal report would be available in April 2013.

Councillor V. Gay, the local member was invited by the Chair to speak about the condition of the section 106 agreement land at Saltney. She said that the Section 106 agreement had been a flawed negotiation and that Planning should have known about the existence of a large water pipe that ran across the site. She claimed that had the steering group been aware of this, that they would not have entered into the agreement. She added that the timescale was not realistic and that no progress had been made with the project. She summed up by asking that members voted not to accept the report and to reject the site outright as a possible replacement for the Saltney library.

The Leader of the Council said that the Council was still committed to providing a library service in Saltney

The Chair said that he was concerned about the original land exchange and the suitability of the plot. He suggested that the matter be considered again at the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 25 April 2013 after the release of the Options Appraisal Report.

Councillor S. Jones said that she agreed with the Chair's proposal.

The Director of Lifelong Learning said that the options appraisal would look at other potential sites in the town and if capital funds were needed these would need to be addressed in the Capital Programme.

The proposal by Councillor V. Gay to delete the section 106 land from the list of possible sites was rejected by the committee.

The Chair proposed that the matter be placed on the Forward Work Plan as an agenda item for the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 25 April 2013. This proposal was agreed by the committee.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Saltney Library and the Options Appraisal Report be discussed at the meeting on 25 April 2013.
- (b) That members recognise that the section 106 site at Saltney may not be a viable option, subject to the publication of the Options Appraisal Report.

57. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator introduced the Forward Work Programme of the Committee. She advised that the next meeting would be held on 14 March 2013. An additional joint meeting with Social Care and Health would take place on 21 March 2013 to discuss Educational Attainment of Looked After Children, Young People Partnership, Corporate Parenting Activity Update, Local Safeguarding Children Update and Families First and Young Carers.

An update on Saltney Library would now be added to the 25 April 2013 agenda as a result of this meeting.

Councillor N. M. Matthews asked that the school meals service, menus and working practices be added to the Forward Work Programme along with School Modernisation and Post 16 Education.

Councillor C. A. Thomas referred to items referred by Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator advised that they would be covered within the Quarterly reports and that the new Section 106 Policy would be included. Councillor Thomas also asked that the Play Sufficiency Survey results be included in a future meeting.

Mr D. Hytch said that it may be helpful if the function of the committee be examined to establish effective working practices. He said that he found it difficult to read and scrutinise lengthy reports which contained too much information and found it equally difficult to scrutinise short reports which did not contain enough detail. The Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator agreed that self evaluation be added to the Forward Work Programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Forward Work Programme be agreed subject to the above additions.

58. DURATION OF THE MEETING

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and ended at 4.46 pm.

59. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There was one member of the press in attendance.

.....
Chairman

This page is intentionally left blank

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2013

REPORT BY: THE DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING

SUBJECT: SCHOOL MODERNISATION UPDATE

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To update Members on the progress made in relation to the School Modernisation Strategy.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Flintshire School Modernisation Strategy sets out the need to make schools 'fit for purpose' for the 21st Century. This strategy complements the Welsh Government 21st Century Schools programme, which aims to provide upgraded school learning environments to reduce surplus places and to ensure efficient use of resources.

2.02 Various National initiatives have been produced by the Welsh Government relating to the provision of school places. These include the reduction in overall surplus places in both Primary and Secondary schools and the rationalisation of post-16 provision.

2.03 The only source of capital funding from central Government is via the 21st Century Schools Programme. This grant funding is available only if an Authority is able to demonstrate that its modernisation proposals meet those requirements.

2.04 Cabinet has also commissioned local consultation on the principles and actions needed to address sustainability of post-16 provision in Saltney and Flint. The two high schools located in Flint have recently announced plans to extend their local collaborative working arrangements.

2.05 The Minister has approved in principle the £32.1m grant for renewal and remodelling of schools in the Holywell, Connah's Quay and Queensferry areas. This funding amounts to 50% of the overall cost, and Flintshire County Council has agreed to fund the balance by accessing funds through Prudential Borrowings.

Consultations on area reviews have been completed in the following areas: -

Buckley, Mynydd Isa & Mold

Preferred Option – To retain 11-16 provision at Elfed High School. Rationalise to 600 places, to include Additional Learning Needs and other education, leisure and cultural uses.

Involving Buckley Elfed High School to change the age range of the school from 11-18 to 11-16. This was initiated by concerns of the Governing Body about the financial and curricular viability of its sixth-form provision.

Queensferry, Shotton & Connah's Quay

Preferred Option – Develop 3-16 facility at John Summers High School with a Post-16 hub at Connah's Quay High School.

John Summers High School – this consultation relates to the establishment of a remodelled 3-16 age range school, with nursery provision currently provided by the Croft Nursery to be incorporated into the existing Queensferry Primary School and St Ethelwold's Primary School. The Croft nursery accommodation would be used to accommodate an expanded Flying Start provision which supports families and family children in the area. This provision already occupies part of the Croft site.

The proposals for Connah's Quay include the establishment of a post-16 hub on land between the existing Connah's Quay High School and Deeside College. This hub would provide for all post-16 provision principally for North Flintshire Schools. Connah's Quay High School would also have a change in age range from 11-18 to 11-16.

Holywell High School, Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron

Preferred Option – Build a new High School for pupils aged 11-16, together with a new primary school to replace Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron.

A new learning campus would be established on the site of the existing Holywell High School. The major investment here would provide a new High School, which would be smaller and better serve the needs of the area, and the amalgamation and subsequent new Primary school on the same site would mean an efficient and modern provision of both primary and secondary accommodation.

The outcome of the consultations and consideration of the responses will be made by the Cabinet on the 19th March 2013.

2.06 Other initiatives being progressed relate to amalgamations of Infant and Junior Schools into through Primary Schools. The current proposed amalgamations at Shotton and Hawarden are subject to Statutory Notice, whilst consultations at Penyffordd have been completed. If approved, the amalgamations in the three communities are expected to be in place for September 2013.

2.07 The Minister for Education has confirmed the closure of Ysgol Rhos y Cae as of 31st August 2013. Appropriate transitional arrangements are being made with members of the school community.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The outcomes of consultations on the proposed Area Reviews of provision are to be reported to Cabinet on the 19th March 2013. If approved, Statutory Notices will be prepared in relation to a change in age range from 11-18 to 11-16 from 2016 at Holywell High School, Connah's Quay High School, John Summers High School and from 2014 at Buckley Elfed High School. Statutory Notices would also be published in relation to the proposed closure of the Croft Nursery. Additional Statutory Notices would be required for the proposed amalgamations at Holywell (Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron) and Penyffordd Infant and Junior Schools.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That Members note the contents of the report and that future updates on the progress of the strategy are submitted when appropriate.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 If options are approved for progression to the Statutory stage, the commitment to fund the overall £64.2m 21st Century Schools Programme will be called upon

5.02 The liability for Flintshire County Council under these arrangements would be £32.1m in accordance with the agreement of County Council on 1 March 2012, and the subsequent inclusion of the Prudential Borrowing in the Medium Term Financial plan.

- 5.03 The indicative capital development costs which have been included in the Strategic Outline Business Case for the preferred options are as follows:

Holywell High School, Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron	£31.25m
Queensferry, Shotton and Connah's Quay and Post-16 Hub	£18.25m
3-16 Facility at John Summers	£14.70m

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 The progress of the School Modernisation Strategy will improve educational opportunities.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 None from this update report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 None from this update report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 None from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 Consultations on post-16 provision in Saltney and Flint to be undertaken following approval.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

- 11.01 Extensive consultations in each of the areas relating to post-16 provision. Individual school consultations undertaken about proposals for Infant and Junior School amalgamations.

12.00 APPENDICES

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

Contact Officer: Tom Davies
Telephone: 01352 704011
Email: tom.davies@flintshire.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
DATE: THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2013
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING
SUBJECT: SCHOOL TRANSPORT POLICY

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek Members' views on proposed changes to discretionary school transport policy, namely post 16 and transport to denominational schools.

2.00 BACKGROUND

On 20 November 2012, Cabinet agreed to commission consultation to renew the school transport policy for post 16 and denominational transport. The Council recognises the value and role of faith based education and access to post 16 education and the proposed changes are intended to produce a fair, equitable and sustainable transport policy.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

Under the current policy, free transport is provided for post 16 students who are in full time education, living in Flintshire and who live over 3 miles from the nearest educational establishment offering the courses they wish to study. Transport is provided irrespective of how far the student wishes to travel. Free transport is also provided for pupils to attend their nearest denominational school, subject to meeting the distance criteria of 2 miles for primary and 3 miles for secondary schools, irrespective of whether pupils can provide evidence of adhering to the faith in question (e.g. baptismal certificate).

In respect of transport to denominational schools, it is proposed that for new admissions from September 2014, free transport is no longer provided for pupils whose admission to the school is not based on faith grounds. Consultation with individual schools will take place to confirm the admission criteria under which pupils are admitted, and suitable evidence of adherence to the faith of the school such as a baptismal certificate or a letter from a priest may be requested. This proposal supports the work carried out by a Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Task and Finish Group in 2010/11, when the Group scrutinised in

detail the implications of this aspect of the policy in terms of parental preference and admissions to school.

In respect of free transport for post 16 students, it is proposed that from September 2013 free transport is provided for students living in Flintshire and attending a first course of full time study at a school or college, subject to meeting the three mile distance criteria and also providing the student is attending the nearest educational establishment offering the courses they wish to study. It is proposed that free transport is provided to the following sites only:

All Secondary School sites within Flintshire

Blessed Edward Jones Catholic High School, Chester Catholic High School, Deeside College sites at Connah's Quay, Northop and Llysfasi (for land based courses only), Prestatyn High School, St Brigid's School, Ysgol Glan Clwyd.

Free transport is already provided to these sites for many students and it is proposed that this continues, subject to the student meeting the criteria above. In recent years there has been an increase in the number of students travelling to educational sites outside Flintshire, such as in Cheshire and sometimes in Lancashire, and it is proposed that free transport to such sites is no longer provided.

The changes for post 16 transport would be implemented at the start of the 2013/14 academic year (ie September 2013) for new students. In respect of changes to denominational transport, it is proposed that the changes be introduced in a "phased" approach from September 2014, as new pupils are admitted into Year 7. The changes would not therefore affect existing pupils.

Under the "Learner Travel Operational Guidance", changes to school transport policies should only be made at the start of a new academic year and there must be consultation with schools, parents and pupils before a decision is taken. Consultation with all stakeholders commenced on 1 March and will continue until 12 April. All responses received will be collated in to a report for consideration by Cabinet on 23 April.

4.00 RECOMMENDATION

That Scrutiny considers the proposed changes to the school transport policy.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is estimated that efficiency savings of £70k could be achieved by "phasing" in a reduction of entitlement to free school transport to denominational schools, rising to £100k in a full academic year.

Savings relating to post 16 transport are estimated at £30k part year and £51 in a full year. It is difficult to identify accurately the consequences of a change in policy as this is dependent upon parental/student preferences, where students live, which courses they wish to access, etc.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

The Anti-Poverty Impact Assessment is included as part of the Equalities Impact Assessment.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

An Environmental Impact Assessment will be carried out. Although these proposals are likely to result in fewer school transport vehicles, they could generate an increase in private car use.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

If the changes to the policy are agreed, this will result in additional work to check eligibility when pupils apply for school transport at the start of primary and secondary school. This will be contained within existing resources.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

Full consultation must be carried out prior to any changes in policy being agreed, to involve all stakeholders likely to be affected by any change: schools, parents, pupils, diocesan authorities.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

Consultation is currently underway.

12.00 APPENDICES

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

**Contact Officer: Ian Budd
Telephone:01352 704010
Email: ian.budd@flintshire.gov.uk**

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
DATE: THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2013
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING
SUBJECT: FLINTSHIRE PLAY SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT &
ACTION PLAN

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To invite comments from members of the Committee on the draft Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 Play is critical to children's physical and emotional well-being and is central to a healthy child's life. Children develop problem-solving skills and find creative approaches to new situations. Ultimately, play influences a child's ability to be adaptable and to cope with stressful events. It enables them to develop resilience and therefore support their own well-being. Play is the essence of childhood, and anything other than access to the broadest range of opportunities for freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated play will have a detrimental impact on the healthy development of the child.
- 2.02 The Welsh Government's (WG) vision for play for children in Wales is set out in its Play Policy (2002) and Play Policy Implementation Plan (2006). WG recognises that to achieve the aim of creating a play friendly Wales and to provide excellent play opportunities for children it is necessary for Local Authorities, their partners and other stakeholders to work collectively towards this purpose. A section on play opportunities was included in the Children and Families (Wales) Measure which received royal assent in 2010.
- 2.03 WG issued regulations in October 2012 requiring all Welsh local authorities to undertake Play Sufficiency Assessments and develop action plans to address identified shortcomings and deficiencies. The regulations place a duty on local authorities to assess and then subsequently secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas, so far as is reasonably practicable.
- 2.04 The scope of the measure is not confined to fixed and staffed play provision. The measure is more about the time, space and ultimately the freedom children have to play. It is envisaged that the subsequent securing of play sufficiency will be about how the Council and its

partners, strategically plan to remove the barriers that prevent children accessing their right to play.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 The draft Play Sufficiency Assessment and subsequent Action Plan has been completed. The 358 page document, which is deposited in the Members Library, assesses performance against 111 criteria provided by WG. An Executive Summary is provided at Appendix 1.
- 3.02 Following this consultation with Scrutiny and previous stakeholder consultations described in section 11, the document will be submitted to Cabinet for approval and forwarded to WG as this Council's formal response.
- 3.03 WG require the provision of an action plan alongside the assessment, to identify the actions to be undertaken to address shortcomings. The actions presented within the main body of the report (Matters A-I) have been assessed individually and allocated to one of three action plan schedules on the basis of resource availability, time, and project programming for the wide range of service areas involved.

Schedule 1: This is the draft Flintshire 2013-2014 PSA Action Plan

Schedule 2: Lists draft actions which could be delivered beyond 2014 with the provision of additional staff resources.

Schedule 3: Lists draft actions which could be delivered beyond 2014 with the provision of additional staff and financial resources.

- 3.04 WG requires the Action Plan to identify 'no-cost' actions which can be delivered during the next 12 months within existing budgets and using existing officer time. Schedule 1 of the Action Plan identifies what is possible within the next 12 months.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Members are recommended to consider the content of the draft Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan and are invited to make suggestions for consideration in the production of the final version to be presented to Cabinet in April 2013.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 WG is providing £22,700 to fund the production of the draft Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan.
- 5.02 The cumulative resource implications of the actions within Schedules 2 & 3 would require the provision of dedicated officer time to initiate

and co-ordinate actions. As a result there are financial implications within Schedules 2 and 3 which will be assessed and reported via the Council's Medium Term Financial Planning and budget setting process.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 The Play Sufficiency Assessment seeks to provide all children with opportunities to access play provision. A section on play opportunities was included in the Children and Families (Wales) Measure which received royal assent in 2010.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 The Play Sufficiency Action Plan seeks to improve the environmental quality of open space through improvements in management and integrated approaches across key service areas.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The Play Sufficiency Assessment aims to promote inclusion and improve access to play opportunities for marginalised, segregated and disabled children. It is recognised, that if given the opportunity all children will play, irrespective of their age, ability, ethnicity, disability, sexual-orientation, social-standing, religion or gender.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None arising from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Following the final approval of the Play Sufficiency Assessment there is a duty for the Council to ensure that key documents are shared with the public via the FCC Website. The Council will need to continue to engage with parents, carers and children and young people in the implementation of the Action Plan.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 The Play Sufficiency Assessment process has been promoted within Flintshire via public consultation and engagement with a number of existing forums and networks:

- Flintshire County Council website and intranet
- CYPP Website and Weekly Circulars
- Health Social Care and Wellbeing Circulars
- Flintshire Local Voluntary Council Circulars
- Local Media
- Questionnaires for adults and children via the FCC website

- Targeting of specific communities of need e.g. Children with disabilities and their families, Polish speaking children and families and Barnardos Young Carers
- Family Information Services Website
- Flintshire County Council Forum (Town and Community Councils)

11.02 In addition on the 31st January 2013, Flintshire County Council hosted a multi-agency, stakeholder work-shop, as part of the consultation and engagement, in undertaking the Play Sufficiency Assessment for the County. The event was attended, by representatives from a number of organisations and community groups, including:

Barnardo's Cymru, Children and Young People's Partnership, Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs, Flintshire County Council –Elected Members, Flintshire County Council – Officers representing services, Forest Schools – Plas Derw Trust, Menter Iaith, North East Wales Community Play Project, Play Wales, Saltney Ferry Tenants and Residents Association, Flintshire Town and Community Councils

12.00 APPENDICES

- 12.01
1. Executive Summary of Play Sufficiency Assessment
 2. Summary draft Play Sufficiency Action Plan (Schedule 1)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

1. Welsh Government, Creating a Play Friendly Wales – LA Statutory Guidance 2012
2. Welsh Government, Children and Young Peoples, Wales – The Play Sufficiency Assessment Regulations Wales 2012
3. Welsh Government, Play Sufficiency Assessment Toolkit 2012
4. Flintshire County Council, Draft Play Sufficiency Assessment & Action Plan 1st March 2013 (In Members Library and available in electronic format)

Contact Officer: Lawrence Rawsthorne
Head of Culture and Leisure

Telephone: 01352 704400

Email: lawrence.rawsthorne@flintshire.gov.uk

Appendices 1- Flintshire Play Sufficiency Assessment Executive Summary - March 2013

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Flintshire County Council through its Flintshire Play Strategy, 2011-2014, acknowledges and promotes the fundamental right of children to play, as recognised by the United Nations Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Welsh Governments National Play Policy (2002)
- 1.2 The Children and Families (Wales) Measure received Royal Assent in 2010. The measure is not just about fixed and staffed play provision. The Measure is more about children having the time, space and ultimately the freedom to play. Central to the approach, is to assess whether, children have access to sufficient play opportunities within their local community.
- 1.3 The Measure requires that local authorities undertake an assessment of current play provision and to determine whether sufficient play opportunities exist. In assessing play provision within the County, it has been important to consider any barriers that may need removing to improve play provision for children. This Play Sufficiency Assessment is Flintshire County Council's statutory response to the WG requirement for an assessment of play sufficiency.

2.0 The Flintshire County Council Approach

- 2.1 The approach taken by Flintshire County Council in undertaking the Play Sufficiency Assessment is shown in detail in the project timetable below.

2.2 Play Sufficiency Assessment, Project Timetable

November 2012 Welsh Government regulations take affect

December 2012 Leisure Services form a Play Sufficiency Assessment working Group

December 2012 Planning and preparation for delivery of Project

- December 2012 Issue public questionnaires (Snap System)
- Dec - Feb 2013 Evidence gathering with FCC Services & public
- Dec – Feb 2013 Various stakeholder engagement e.g. schools & third sector
- 31st Jan 2013 Key stakeholder engagement event
- 1st March 2013 Submission of 1st draft of Play Sufficiency Assessment to Welsh Government
- 14th March 2013 Overview and Scrutiny meeting – Presentation of report – PSA Audit, Assessment and Action Plan for consideration and comment
- 23rd April 2013 Cabinet Meeting – Presentation of report PSA Audit, Assessment and Action Plan for approval and adoption

2.3 The Play Sufficiency Assessment process, has involved considerable effort to engage and consult with key stakeholders, internal and external to the Council, and with the general public as follows:

1. Promotion of the Play Sufficiency Assessment process
2. Engagement with Flintshire County Council Directorates and strategic partnerships
3. Development of online questionnaire (Snap System)
4. Engagement with all Flintshire schools
5. Engagement with third sector organisation, including Flintshire Local Voluntary Council.
6. The Flintshire Play Sufficiency Assessment Stakeholder Workshop / Event

2.4 It is anticipated that the submission of the draft Play Sufficiency Assessment report and Action Plan to Welsh Government on 1st March 2013 will be followed by two key meetings. These are the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14th March 2013 and Flintshire

County Council Cabinet meeting on 23rd April 2013. It will only be following these meetings and a resolution by Members to approve the PSA Report and Action Plan that the report can be publicly released.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 To set the context for the assessment of play sufficiency the Welsh Government provided a toolkit containing 111 key criteria to be assessed. These 111 criteria have been used to frame the Council's response. Each criterion has been assessed within a RAG system (Red, Amber & Green) on the basis of performance in the last 12 months. The RAG system used is as follows:

Red – Criterion not met
Amber – Criterion partially met
Green – Criterion fully met

3.2 Supplementing the RAG assessment system a series of arrows have been used to provide indication of how the matter is expected to change in the foreseeable future, as follows:

Arrow Up - Improvements are likely in the next 12 months.
Arrow Across – The situation is expected to remain static in the next 12 months.
Arrow Down - The matter is expected to deteriorate in the next 12 months

3.3 The process has identified a wide variety of results where matters may have been identified Red, Green or more commonly as Amber but with an indication of likely future improvement / deterioration.

3.4 The 111 criteria are framed within Matters A-I. Matters A-I are as follows:

Matter A Population
Matter B Providing for Diverse Need
Matter C Space Available for Children to Play
Matter D Supervised Provision

Matter E Charges for Play Provision
Matter F Access to Space Provision
Matter G Securing and Developing the Play Workforce
Matter H Community Engagement & Participation
Matter I Play within all relevant Policy & Implementation
Agenda's

4.0 The PSA Action Plan

4.1 The PSA process has identified that there are many actions which could be taken by Flintshire County Council to improve play opportunities for children and young people. These actions have been presented within the main body of the report (Matters A-I) and have been assessed individually and allocated to one of three Action Plan Schedules as follows:

Schedule 1: This is Flintshire County Councils, 2013-2014 PSA Action Plan

Schedule 2: These are actions which could be delivered, beyond 2014, with the provision of additional Staff Resources

Schedule 3: These are actions which could be delivered, beyond 2014, with the provision of additional Staff &/or Financial Resources

4.2 The Action Plan has been developed through a process of impartial assessment, to identify 'low-cost' and 'no-cost' actions which can be delivered over the next 12 months within existing budgets and using existing officer time. In this respect Schedule 1 of the Action Plan are considered to be "Quick Wins".

4.3 Schedule 2 consists of 57 individual actions which have been assessed and found that they cannot be delivered within the next 12 months. If these actions are to be delivered in the period beyond 2014, then there will be need for additional resources.

4.4 The matters in Schedule 2 will require additional staff provision within the Play Unit, to co-ordinate this work across

the Local Authority. The total estimated costs based on an outline desktop assessment are £154,000 of new funding.

- 4.5 Schedule 3 consists of 37 individual actions which have been assessed and found that they cannot be delivered within the next 12 months. If these actions are to be delivered in the period beyond 2014, then it will be necessary for additional staff and/or financial resources.
- 4.6 It is necessary to state that the additional funding required to achieve all of the actions in Schedule 3 has not been identified within the time available. This matter should be the subject of future discussion between Flintshire County Council and Welsh Government.

5.0 The Next Steps

- 5.1 The Play Sufficiency Assessment has provided Flintshire County Council with the opportunity to review its current approach to providing play opportunities for children and young people.
- 5.2 The findings of this review are presented in considerable detail within the main report. There are known limitations to the findings within the report. It is anticipated that this undertaking will provide the basis for future reviews which, given more time, can improve and develop on this first baseline audit.
- 5.3 The Actions presented in Schedule One represent the Action Plan for the period 2013-2014. The actions contained within further Schedules (2&3) are highly unlikely to be implemented, without the provision of sufficient resources being made available.
- 5.4 Once approved, the Play Sufficiency Assessment report will be made available to the general public. Any feedback will be used to inform the implementation of actions in the period 2013-2014. This is an ongoing process which will be monitored and reviewed to ensure that the actions seek to address identified community needs.

This page is intentionally left blank

Flintshire County Council: Play Sufficiency Assessment 2013 - 2014

Schedule One Proposed Actions

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter A: Population			
Matter A Criteria 1 (ii)	Specifically, Leisure and Planning Services in co-ordination with Corporate Services will continue to develop existing approaches based on the new 2011 data (Previously the 2001 data) to identify areas of sufficiency and deficiency in play provision.	Play Unit with Planning & Corporate Services	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter A Criteria 2 (i)	To engage with Education and further consider the availability and value of PLASC data in the seeking to address disabled children's needs in the County.	Play Unit with CIDS & Education (Inclusion)	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter A Criteria 3 (i)	Flintshire County Council will consider, analyse and interpret the data within the 2011 Census and seek to provide key analysis into the public domain. Specifically Leisure and Planning Services will continue to develop existing approaches based on the new 2011 data to identify areas of sufficiency and deficiency in play provision.	Play Unit with Planning & Corporate Services	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter A Criteria 4 (i)	Flintshire County Council will consider, analyse and interpret the data within the 2011 Census and seek to provide key analysis into the public domain. Specifically Leisure and Planning Services will continue to develop existing approaches, based on the new 2011 data to identify areas of sufficiency and deficiency in play provision.	Play Unit with Planning & Corporate Services	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter B: Providing for diverse needs			
Matter B Criteria 5 (i)	An assessment of mapping fixed play areas has already been undertaken. It is proposed that this assessment be further developed utilising 2011 Census Data to identify the locations of greatest need in rural areas. This exercise will inform future investment decisions.	Planning with Play	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter B Criteria 5 (ii)	It is proposed that further discussions be held with Education (Inclusion) and Transportation Services (Public Transport & Taith) to promote the development of alternative transportation services.	Culture and Leisure with Public Transportation; Taith; & Education (Inclusion)	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter B Criteria 10	To engage with the Children's Integrated Disability Service and the Play Unit to explore what potential exists to develop and improve mechanisms for disabled children to access sufficient play opportunities.	Culture and Leisure with CIDS & Education (Inclusion)	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter B Criteria 12	(FCC) Public Open Space (Play Unit) in partnership with (FCC) Corporate Services to develop a play scheme for the Queensferry gypsy-traveller site to be managed and operated by Flintshire County Council in partnership with the local community. Further assessment will be required, in relation to other authorised sites to identify play needs and whether there are issues of deficiency.	Play with Corporate Policy & Housing	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter C: Space available for children to play			
Matter C Criteria 17	To complete the Accessible Natural Green Spaces Study in the next 12 months.	Leisure Services with Play, Planning and Countryside Services	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter C Criteria 18	There is the potential for the good practice shown by the Play Unit (Public Open Spaces) and Countryside Services to be shared to develop a consistent approach.	Play with Countryside Services and Streetscene	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter C Criteria 19	The PSA Action Plan should seek to support the Green Space Strategy in seeking to develop policies at a strategic and a technical level to put in place the local open space standard.	Planning with Play, Countryside Services and Corporate Policy	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter C Criteria 25	To engage with Planning (Policy) to review the Local Planning Guidance Note 13: Open space.	Planning with Play	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter C Criteria 27 (i)	Introduction of smoke free play areas in 2013 together with signage provision.	Play with HSCWB & CYPP	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter C Criteria 28	There is a need for the Play Unit (Public Open Spaces) to review current practice and consider the introduction of new procedures for the erection and/or removal of “no ball game signs” .	Play with Streetscene and Town and Community Councils	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter D: Supervised provision			
Matter D Criteria 42	The Creating an Active Partnership forum, network and action plan provide the opportunity for actions identified through the Play Sufficiency Assessment to be developed in collaboration with other stakeholders.	HSCWB with Play	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter D Criteria 45 (ii)	To engage with Arts and Culture to explore the potential to deliver arts and culture activities at alternative facilities such as Schools; Leisure Centres; and Community Halls.	Cultural & Leisure Services	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter E: Charges for play provision			
Matter E Criteria 54 (iii)	To engage with the Family Information Service and the Public Transportation Team in order to promote the advice and expertise available within FCC with regards to the hire and provision of transportation for events - regular activities and out of school hours play provision.	Culture & Leisure with FIS and Public Transportation	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter F: Access to space/provision			
Matter F Criteria 55	To map this data alongside designated play areas and other play and recreation destinations; as well as designated pedestrian crossing points to identify where additional traffic calming may be of benefit to children and young people.	C=Play with Planning and Transportation (Road Safety and Traffic)	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter F Criteria 57 (i)	To explore with Transportation (Road Safety) over the course of 2013, how children's and young people's needs and views will be taken into account in the development of any Road Safety Plan for Flintshire.	Culture & Leisure with Transportation (Road Safety and Traffic)	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter F Criteria 58 (i)	To further engage with Transportation (Policy) to promote the right of children to play and play as a key motivating factor for travelling within or away from a child's neighbourhood area.	Culture & Leisure Transportation (Policy and Road Safety)	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter F Criteria 59 (i)	To explore with Transportation (Road Safety) over the course of 2013, how children's and young people's needs and views will be taken into account in the development of any Road Safety Plan for Flintshire.	Culture and Leisure with Transportation (Policy, Traffic and Road Safety)	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter F Criteria 66 (i)	To explore with Transportation (Public Transportation) what options may exist in reviewing the Deeside Shuttle Service in offering children and young people access to key leisure and play destinations.	Play with Transportation (Public)	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter F Criteria 67	To ensure the FIS web pages are linked and prominently promoted by the FCC Play Unit web pages; the North East Wales web site and other key websites eg Children and Young Peoples Partnership.	Play with FIS and Corporate Comms.	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter F Criteria 68	To ensure the FIS web pages are linked and prominently promoted by the FCC Play Unit web pages; the North East Wales web site and other key websites eg Children and Young Peoples Partnership.	Play with FIS, NEWPlay, CYPP, and Corporate Comms.	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter F Criteria 69 (i)	To explore with the Children and Young Peoples Partnership to identify whether the FIS Website and the Summer Fun Publication is widely available.	Play with FIS, NEWPlay, and Corporate Comms.	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter F Criteria 70	To continue to engage with the media to highlight and promote existing good practice and good news stories from the County; to promote play opportunities (eg Summer Fun Publication); to identify the need for play opportunities particularly in those areas where there are identified deficiencies in provision; and to positively challenge public perceptions of children, young people, and the value of play.	Play with NEWPlay and Corporate Comms.	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter F Criteria 73	To continue to engage with the media to highlight and promote existing good practice and good news stories from the County; to promote play opportunities (eg Summer Fun Publication); to identify the need for play opportunities particularly in those areas where there are identified deficiencies in provision; and to positively challenge public perceptions of children, young people, and the value of play.	Play with NEWPlay, FIS and Corporate Comms.	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter H: Community engagement and participation			
Matter H Criteria 86	To work with Corporate Services to develop approaches to minimise consultation duplication and overload for stakeholders, whilst simultaneously maximising the potential for collaboration between FCC Services in delivering play opportunities for children and young people.	Play with Corporate Comms.	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter H Criteria 87 (i)	To work with Corporate Services to develop approaches to minimise consultation duplication and overload for stakeholders, whilst simultaneously maximising the potential for collaboration between FCC Services in delivering play opportunities for children and young people.	Play with Corporate Comms.	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter H Criteria 87 (ii)	To continue to engage with FCC Councillors; Town and Community Councillors; FCC decision makers; Third Sector; with adults in the community to raise awareness of the importance of play; to highlight how decisions impact on play; and to provide training and raise awareness of play value.	Play Unit with NEWPlay, FIS & CYPP	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter H Criteria 87 (iii)	To engage with local, regional and national media to promote positive attitudes to children and young people and to promote the value of play.	Play with NEWPlay & Corporate Comms.	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter I: Play within all relevant policy and implementation agendas			
Matter I Criteria 88	Following production of the Play Sufficiency Assessment a presentation will be delivered for the two Play Champions of Flintshire County Council. This presentation will take the form of a briefing to ensure that the findings of the PSA can best be presented to other key decision making groups, including the Local Service Board.	Play Unit	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter I Criteria 91 (ii)	To engage with Education and the Corporate Health and Safety Team, to identify appropriate methods and guidance that could be presented to schools, to show how school grounds could be made available to the community (Either open access or through bookings) whilst maintaining security of buildings and other assets.	Culture & Leisure with Education & Corporate Health and Safety Team	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter I Criteria 92	To engage with the Local Education Authority and Transportation to identify how best to engage with individual schools, to promote walking and cycling and to identify what good practice currently exists which can be promoted to other schools in Flintshire.	Culture & Leisure with Education & Transportation (Policy)	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter I Criteria 93 (i)	To engage with the Local Education Authority to promote the value of break times for facilitating children's play.	Culture & Leisure with NEWPlay and Education	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter I Criteria 94	Flintshire County Council has already made commitments to begin a Local Development Plan, work is currently underway. The Flintshire Strategic Play Forum will engage with the Planning Authority to ensure that the policies that are drafted are reflective of the play needs of children of different ages and abilities.	Planning with Play	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter I Criteria 95	To engage with Taith to promote the needs of children and young people in accessing and utilising paths, cycleways and public transportation services to access play, recreation and leisure facilities.	Play with Transportation (Policy) and Taith	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time
Matter I Criteria 96	To engage with Taith to promote the needs of children and young people in accessing and utilising public transportation services.	Play with CYP, Transportation (Policy) and Taith	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

Matter	Priorities	Project Lead and Partners	Resources & Funding
Matter I Criteria 102	Flintshire Play Development Unit via Family Information Service to promote good practice regarding to intergenerational projects.	Play with FIS	Through the use of existing resources and Officer Time

This page is intentionally left blank

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **14 MARCH 2013**

REPORT BY: **HOUSING & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FACILITATOR**

SUBJECT: **QUARTER 3 SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORTS**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To note and consider the 2012/13 Quarter 3 service performance reports produced at the Head of Service/Divisional level under the adopted business model of the Council. The reports cover the Quarter 3 period (October to December 2012).
- 1.02 To note the position of the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) contained within the performance reports.
- 1.03 To note the progress made against the Improvement Targets contained within the performance reports.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The quarterly performance reports seek to provide the reader with the 'narrative' of quarterly performance, which gives the context for overall performance. These reports are a quarterly review of service plans.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 Copies of the detailed Quarter 3 (October to December 2012) performance reports are attached at Appendix 1.1 – Schools Services, Appendix 1.2 – Development and Resources and 1.3 – Culture and Leisure Services.
- 3.02 **Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges**
Each quarterly performance report contains an update of each of the relevant strategic risks and challenges. This update has been provided by each of the lead responsible officers and is available for comment and review.
- 3.03 A draft revised SARC summary position of the present Red (high risk), Amber (medium risk) and Green (low risk) status for all of the reported strategic risks and challenges is provided at Appendix 2.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the Committee consider the 2012/13 Quarter 3 performance reports produced by the Heads of Service, highlight and monitor poor performance and feedback details of any challenge to Corporate Resources O & S Committee who are responsible for the overview and monitoring of improvement targets.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Not applicable

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Not applicable

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1.1 – Schools Services, Appendix 1.2 – Development and Resources, Appendix 1.3 – Culture and Leisure Services
Appendix 2 – SARC

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

Contact Officer Ceri Owen
Telephone: 01352 702305
Email: ceri.owen@flintshire.gov.uk

Quarterly Performance Report –Schools’ Services

Report Author Kevin Grandfield, Claire Homard, Jeanette Rock

Report Date January 2012

Report Period Quarter 3: October 2012 to December 2012

Introduction

The report is produced on a quarterly basis and provided to Executive members for review and assurance and will be available for Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of their Forward Work Programmes.

The report consists of an overview to highlight the key messages across all work streams in Schools’ Service. Parts 2 and 3 of the report include an assessment of performance in the quarter from the following sources:

- Improvement Plan Monitoring
- Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges
- Performance Indicators and Outcome Measures
- Improvement Target Action Plan Monitoring
- Key Actions from Service Plan Monitoring
- Internal and external regulatory reports
- Customer satisfaction and feedback
- Awards and accreditations
- Resource Management (HR, ICT, Finance, Assets)

1. Foreword

Report highlights for this quarter are the following items: -

<p>School Improvement Strategy</p>	<p>Principal Officers, working with school improvement colleagues and Headteachers have planned school improvement activity in the School Improvement Strategy. In 2012-13 the Strategy Group has identified the following as the key areas for planning across all phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving standards in Literacy • To continue to raise standards in mathematics and further develop numeracy across the curriculum. • Reducing the impact of poverty and disadvantage on educational attainment • Developing collaborative working, curriculum continuity and effective transition to further raise standards • Raising standards by transforming teaching and learning through effective use of new technologies
<p>Improving standards in Literacy</p>	<p>A corporate response to the Literacy Framework has been completed and submitted to the Welsh Government.</p> <p>School Improvement officers have received training in delivery of literacy across the curriculum to ensure consistency of advice within and across key stages. Planned support for schools has included many requests for support and guidance in this area. By the end of the autumn term a total of 600 primary and 629 secondary teachers have received literacy training in preparation for the NLF.</p> <p>14-19 Network Digital Resources Group is planning regional training opportunities in using the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) to support literacy development and raising standards.</p> <p>Regional meetings were held to determine criteria for the appointment of outstanding literacy teachers (LOTs). Five LOTs have now been appointed within Flintshire are now working within targeted schools focusing on raising standards within KS2. A very successful best practice event was held on the 18th October.</p>
<p>To continue to raise standards in mathematics and further develop numeracy across the curriculum</p>	<p>A corporate response to the Numeracy Framework has been completed and submitted to the Welsh Government. Framework Awareness sessions and training based on the framework took place in the Autumn Term. All schools have now received Numicon training and all 5 partnership groups have received resources.</p> <p>School Improvement officers have received training in delivery of numeracy across the curriculum to ensure consistency of advice within and across key stages. Planned support for schools has included many requests for support and guidance in this area.</p> <p>14-19 Network Digital Resources Group is planning regional</p>

	<p>training opportunities in using the Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle) to support Numeracy development and raising standards.</p> <p>Regional meetings were held to determine criteria for the appointment of outstanding numeracy teachers (NOTs). Six NOTs have now been appointed within Flintshire and a training event was held on the 8th October. NOTs are now working within targeted schools focusing on raising standards within KS2. Eight primary schools have received mathematics monitoring this academic year as part of LA monitoring programme.</p>
<p>Reducing the impact of poverty and disadvantage on educational attainment</p>	<p>Estyn have published a document 'Effective practice in tackling poverty and disadvantage in schools- November 2012' The advice and contents contained in the document are being mirrored across many schools in Flintshire. Those schools that have high level of free school meals in Flintshire have excellent inclusive practices and they are successful in engaging and offering opportunities for all young people. One such High School has also allowed an onsite inclusion centre to be developed within the heart of the school.</p> <p>The development of an Alternative Education and Adventurous Activities provision within the portfolio of PRUs has been developed and is temporarily based at the Delyn Centre in Mold. This provision will also be available for pupils in main stream schools- especially those in areas of poverty and disadvantage.</p> <p>The Pass survey has been completed by all schools and the Social Inclusion Service will work with schools to analyse the results and act upon them. The SEAL working group and interested schools are further developing the programme.</p> <p>The bidding process into the Families First Fund has been completed, and a multi disciplinary team headed by the Social Inclusion Service has been successful with their project proposal to employ 6 workers. These workers will work in schools and help to tackle poverty and disadvantage by working with identified children and young people in informal ways to help them engage and stay engaged with education. This project is called the 'Time For Change' project.</p>
<p>Developing collaborative working, curriculum continuity and effective transition to further raise standards</p>	<p>Partnerships continue to deliver a comprehensive range of high quality training events led by lead teachers in Foundation Phase practice and/or external providers. The partnerships are also producing support materials, including standardised portfolios of writing, and teachers have been given access to the Local Authority Moodle site facilitating sharing resources across the phase. Transition between Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 has also been a focused area of training to support continuity in pedagogy.</p> <p>Within the Secondary Phase, forums led by School Improvement Officers to share new and good practice have taken place with good</p>

	<p>attendance. Meetings of Curriculum Leaders to support collaborative working on curriculum development and an offer of collaborative courses at Key Stage 4 and Post 16 in 2013 have taken place, resulting in an offer which meets the requirements of the Learning and Skills Measure being recorded on the Careers Wales on Line Website, for all schools.</p> <p>A Steering Group for Collaborative Working is meeting, including Officer and Headteacher representatives, aiming to ensure that best practice in collaborative working continues as school improvement support become increasingly based with the regional service. The regional service (RSEIS) has been undertaking the appointment process for officers and a meeting is arranged with the Chief Officer to clarify the support this team will be able to provide for collaborative working in Flintshire.</p>
<p>Raising standards by transforming teaching and learning through effective use of technologies</p>	<p>The authority will receive a grant of approximately £1m to improve the network infrastructure within schools, as well as Welsh Government agreeing to fund a new broadband infrastructure for all schools in Wales. Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and primary schools will have a 10mb link and secondary schools a 100mb link.</p> <p>Alongside the connectivity improvements WG have launched a national learning platform (Hwb) for all schools, to be rolled out over the next 18 months. 25 schools in Flintshire will be involved in this rollout process from February 2013.</p>
<p>Estyn Inspections</p>	<p>In this quarter, two primary school inspection reports have been published, with one judged as “good” performance with good prospects for improvement and the other judged as “adequate” with good prospects. Neither therefore require any follow up action by Estyn.</p> <p>Two primary schools have been taken out of the monitoring category as a result of follow-up visits by Estyn, with one primary school in the category of Estyn Monitoring.</p>
<p>Interim changes to the Primary School Improvement Service</p>	<p>A group of experienced headteachers have been appointed, trained and are working on a ‘supply cost basis’ as acting system leaders with groups of primary schools. This will continue from September 2012 to March 2013 to support the workload of Senior Officers during this interim period leading to the implementation of RSEIS.</p>

2. Performance Summary

2.1 Improvement Plan Monitoring











KEYS

Progress RAG – Complete the RAG status using the following key: -

R	Limited Progress - delay in scheduled activity; not on track
A	Satisfactory Progress - some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track
G	Good Progress - activities completed on schedule, on track

Outcome RAG – Complete the RAG status using the following key: -

R	Low - lower level of confidence in the achievement of outcome(s)
A	Medium - uncertain level of confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s)
G	High - full confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s)

Council Priority	Target Date	Progress RAG	Outcome RAG	Commentary
7. To promote independent, healthy and fulfilled living in the community with the highest quality personalised and supportive social and health care services				
7.8 Complete the Inclusion Services Review and implement new arrangements to support children with Additional Learning Needs	Phase 1 - March 2013			See paragraph 3.1.1
	Phase 2 – March			
6. To protect and grow the local and regional economy, to be a prosperous County and to provide help and support for those vulnerable to poverty				
6.12 Extend and enhance the type of education, employment and training (EET) opportunities available for young people				
9. To secure a modern and high performing range of learning, cultural, play and leisure opportunities for all ages with our schools, colleges and other partners.				
9.2 Improve learning outcomes in Flintshire schools	Ongoing			See paragraph 3.1.2
9.4 Review the range of services offered to schools and issue a revised partnership agreement and compendium of Service Level Agreements	To be confirmed			See paragraph 3.1.3

2.2 Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC)





The table below summarises the position of SARCS at the end of the reporting period.

KEY

R	High Risk
A	Medium Risk
G	Low Risk

Commentary is included in section 3 for those SARCS: -

- that are showing a Red RAG status
- where the RAG status has changed since the last reporting period
- where the Green Predictive Date has changed since the last reporting period
- where there has been considerable change or additions of secondary risks and activity

SARC	Previous RAG Status	Current RAG Status	Green Predictive
CD22 School Improvement Regional project (Timescales for implementation included in the Quarter 4 2011/12 Report)			April 2013
CL12 Skill Needs of Employers			Achieved

2.3.1 Performance Indicators and Outcome Measures

The following Improvement Targets in respect of School Improvement Services are all reported on an annual basis and will be reported at Quarter 4.

Key

R	Target missed
A	Target missed but within an acceptable level
G	Target achieved or exceeded

The status of the indicators are summarised below:

 0
  0
  0

An asterisk (*) indicates that the indicator is an *improvement* target.

Indicator	Previous Annual Outturn (Summer 2011)	Annual Target 2012/13 (Summer 2012)	Annual Outturn 2012/13 (Summer 2012)	RAG	Changes (Trend) e.g.: Improved / Downturned
EDU/002aiL* The number of pupils (including those in local authority care) in any local authority maintained learning setting, who attain the age of 16 during the school year and leave full-time education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	7 pupils	10 pupils	pupils		
EDU/002aiiL* The number of pupils in local authority care in any local authority maintained learning setting, who attain the age of 16 during the school year and leave full-time education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	1 pupil	0 pupils	pupils		
EDU/002i* The percentage of all pupils (including those in local authority care) in any local authority maintained school aged 15 as of the preceding 31st August who leave education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0.39%	0.60%	%		
EDU/002ii* The percentage of pupils in local authority care in any local authority maintained school, aged 15 as of the preceding 31st August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	0.00%	10%	%		
EDU/009a* The average number of school days that permanently excluded pupils did not receive an offer of full time appropriate education provision during the academic year	2 school days	3 school days	school days		
EDU/011* The average point score for pupils aged 15 as of preceding 31st August, in schools maintained by	413.53 points	459 points	points		

the local authority					
EDU/015b* The percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks, excluding exceptions	100%	100%	%		
SCC/002* The percentage of children looked after at 31 March who have experienced one or more changes of school, during a period or periods of being looked after, which were not due to transitional arrangements, in the 12 months.	9.52%	6%	%		
SCCC/035* The percentage of looked after children eligible for assessment at the end of Key Stage 2 achieving the Core Subject Indicator, as determined by Teacher Assessment	62.5%	25%	%		
SCC/036* The percentage of looked after children eligible for assessment at the end of Key Stage 3 achieving the core Subject Indicator, as determined by Teacher assessment	18.75%	40%	%		
SCC/037* The average external qualifications point score for 16 year old looked after children, in any local authority maintained learning setting	103.46 points	186 points	points		

2.3.2 Improvement Target Action Plan Monitoring

Key - ✓ on track, ✗ behind schedule, C completed

Ref	Action & Planned Completion date	Progress
EDU/002aiL & EDU/002i	Schools are extending the opportunities for pupils to achieve external qualifications in Years 9/10. If pupils are unlikely to complete their education in full time mainstream provision the Inclusion Service, through Portfolio PRU, provide opportunities to gain formal qualifications. The range of qualifications available through the PRU provision has been increased. Ongoing	✓
EDU/002aiiL & EDU/002ii	More accurate recording is now possible using the ONE database to record the LAC pupil population. Pupil progress is monitored by schools and tracked by the LAC officer. Multi-agency systems are now in place aimed at preventing pupils from leaving school with no	✓

	formal qualifications. SEG funding is to be targeted to enable KS4 pupils to access appropriate qualifications. Ongoing	
EDU/009a	The number of permanently excluded pupils remains low. The Inclusion Service continues to work with Primary & Secondary Heads in implementing an agreed Protocol for managed moves which is being monitored. Ongoing	✓
EDU/011	Support for curriculum development through the 14-19 network and annual network development plan so that all schools meet the requirements of the learning and skills measure. Ongoing	✓
	Supporting collaborative working for co-ordinating and early operation of the Welsh Baccalaureate Ongoing	✓
EDU/015b	Regular monthly monitoring and evaluation by Head of Educational Psychology Service is undertaken and results in investigation and action where timescales may not been met. Ongoing	✓
SCC/002	Education Services whenever possible attempt to maintain young people within their own schools. Sometimes however, the distances from new foster placements make this strategy impracticable and too costly. Closer working relationships with children services will in the future help to keep young people in their own schools. Individual cases sometimes require a change of residence or kinship care placements OOC-this is a positive move. Ongoing	✓
SCC/035	LAC conference in October 2012 to highlight the needs of LAC and the emphasis upon those children achieving to the best of their ability. Emphasise the importance of attendance of LAC and reduce the numbers of LAC children excluded from school, through CPD and Governor training. Encourage schools to raise issues of underachievement of LAC with the LAC coordinator so that support can be afforded to the child through SEG. Develop the letter-box initiative to encourage foster carers to read & develop a culture of reading for their foster children from. Ongoing training for foster carers & social workers in relation to the national curriculum and proposed changes to assessment for ALN. Ongoing support for the after school one to one tuition, using in county home tutors working closely with the child's school Ongoing	✓
SCC/036	LAC conference in October 2012 to highlight the needs of LAC and the emphasis upon those children achieving to the best of their ability. Emphasise the importance of attendance of LAC and reduce the numbers of LAC children excluded from school, through CPD and Governor training. Encourage schools to raise issues of underachievement of LAC with the LAC coordinator so that support can be afforded to the child through SEG. Develop the letter-box initiative to encourage foster carers to read & develop a culture of reading for their foster children from. Ongoing training for foster carers & social workers in relation to the national curriculum and proposed changes to assessment for ALN. Ongoing support for the after school one to one tuition, using in county home tutors working closely with the child's school Ongoing	✓
SCC/037	Through Learning Coaches, ensure that early identification of underachievement is reported to LAC co-ordinator.	✓

	<p>Schools to be encouraged to seek support for those LAC who it is felt may not achieve an average or above points score when they leave school.</p> <p>Use SEG to support LAC to achieve their full potential.</p> <p>Ongoing support for the after school one to one tuition, using in county home tutors working closely with the child's school</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	
--	---	--

2.4 Key Actions from Service Plan Monitoring

The following table shows the key areas of improvement as identified in the Service Plan/Strategy. Any areas not on-track are indicated with a ✘. These are areas which have incurred slippage or have been subject to a revised timetable. Reference is made to the section where further detail can be found in relation to these areas.

Improvement Area	On-track?	Commentary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving standards in Literacy 	✓	See Section 1.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to raise standards in mathematics and further develop numeracy across the curriculum. 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the impact of poverty and disadvantage on educational attainment. 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing collaborative working, curriculum continuity and effective transition to further raise standards 	✓	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising standards by transforming teaching and learning through effective use of new technologies 	✓	

2.5 Internal & External Regulatory Reports

The following internal and external audit/regulatory work has been completed during the year and the outcome of the work can be summarised as follows. Outcomes are discussed in more detail in section 3.

Undertaken By	Title & Date Report Received	Overall Report Status
	No reports received during Quarter 3.	

3. Exception Reporting

3.1 Improvement Plan Monitoring

3.1.1 - 7.8 Complete the Inclusion Services Review and implement new arrangements to support children with Additional Learning Needs

- The report to Cabinet (Dec 2012) outlined the work completed to date.
- The second phase of the review has been initiated (January 2013). Initial consultation meetings have been held with service managers and Headteacher representatives and specific projects groups identified to take this phase of the review through to completion. Given the extent of the areas covered within this second phase of the review, the process will not be completed until March 2014 and a comprehensive timeline is being generated.

3.1.2 – 9.2 Improve learning outcomes in Flintshire Schools

- School Improvement Strategy, covering Primary and Secondary, in place and progress reported to Lifelong Learning Scrutiny committee.
- Flintshire has been above FSM benchmark performance in almost all indicators at KS3 and KS4.
- School/LA partnership agreements will be harmonised on receipt of guidance from Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (RSEIS).
- Discussions with Standards Unit are ongoing through regular Stocktake meetings.
- The initial pilot of the draft Leadership and Management tool produced by RSEIS has been used in Primary and Secondary schools in autumn term visits.
- Developments in literacy and numeracy are key priorities within the School Improvement Strategy.

3.1.3 - 9.4 Review the range of services offered to schools and issue a revised partnership agreement and compendium of Service Level Agreements

The Full Business Case has been completed and approved on the proposed Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (RSEIS). RSEIS have appointed 24 of the 30 Systems Leader posts and have advertised for the remaining available posts. The Chief Officer Post has also been advertised. A Review Group has been established for service reviews. Future actions for RSEIS will include completing work for new school/Local Authority partnership agreement and support services to schools. Then Flintshire will be able to complete this priority.

This page is intentionally left blank

Quarterly Performance Report – Development & Resources

Report Author Tom Davies.
Report Date February 2013
Report Period Quarter 3: October 2012 to December 2012

Introduction

The report is produced on a quarterly basis and provided to Executive members for review and assurance and will be available for Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of their Forward Work Programmes.

The report consists of an overview of the key messages to highlight across all work streams in Development & Resources, which is followed by highlights from each service area. Parts 2 and 3 of the report include an assessment of performance in the quarter from the following sources:

- Improvement Plan Monitoring
- Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges
- Performance Indicators and Outcome Measures
- Improvement Target Action Plan Monitoring
- Key Actions from Service Plan Monitoring
- Internal and external regulatory reports
- Customer satisfaction and feedback
- Awards and accreditations
- Resource Management (HR, ICT, Finance, Assets)

1. Foreword

Report highlights for this quarter are the following items: -

<p>School Modernisation – Area Schools Review</p>	<p>Following the analysis of responses to the consultation round held in the Spring, the Cabinet approved a second round of consultations based on one preferred option for each of the areas: -</p> <p>Queensferry, Shotton and Connah’s Quay Area ‘Develop a 3-16 facility at John Summers High School with a Post-16 Centre at Connah’s Quay High School’</p> <p>Holywell Area ‘Build a new high school for pupils aged 11-16, together with a new primary school to replace Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron’</p> <p>Buckley, Mynydd Isa and Mold Area ‘Retain 11-16 provision at Elfed High School. Rationalise to 600 places. Use surplus accommodation to accommodate Additional Learning Needs provision and other education, leisure and cultural uses’</p> <p>The second round of consultations was conducted in November and responses received until the end of the Autumn Term.</p> <p>The responses are being classified and a statistical analysis of the response form prepared from the data. All responses prepared from the data. All responses are being up-loaded to the website, and a full report will be made available for consideration in the March Cabinet meeting.</p> <p>Following the closure of the period for responses to the Statutory Notice relating to the proposed closure of Ysgol Rhes y Cae, one formal objection has been received. The decision on closure of the school will now be made by Welsh Ministers, and all the paper work has been forwarded to Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements.</p>
--	---

Other highlights by service area:

<p>Facilities Review</p>	<p>Following consultations with Trade Unions and employees regarding a review of Caretaking services at County Hall, additional consultations are being arranged with staff and building users not based at County Hall such as Leisure, Housing and Property.</p> <p>Review of cleaning services</p> <p>Following the successful pilot of new cleaning rotas in Phase 1 of County Hall, the requirement is now being rolled-out to the</p>

	<p>rest of the complex. This roll-out will be completed by the end of January 2013.</p> <p>Review of School Cooks hours Initial individual consultations with affected staff now completed. The second phase is scheduled for March with Trade Unions and Human Resources. If consultations are approved, it is hoped that implementation will be in mid-April.</p>
Youth Strategy	<p>A review of management structure of the service has been undertaken, with a view of reducing management costs and increasing the direct contacts with service users.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with employees and relevant Trade Unions on the reduction of middle-management and the more efficient deployment of Youth Workers.</p>

2. Performance Summary

2.1 Improvement Plan Monitoring

The following table summarises the progress made to date and the progress against the desired outcome of the Council Improvement Priorities on which the LLL Development and Resource Service lead.









KEYS

Progress RAG

R	Limited Progress - delay in scheduled activity; not on track
A	Satisfactory Progress - some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track
G	Good Progress - activities completed on schedule, on track

Outcome RAG




R	Low - lower level of confidence in the achievement of outcome(s)
A	Medium - uncertain level of confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s)
G	High - full confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s)

Council Priority	Target Date	Progress RAG	Outcome RAG	Commentary
7. To promote independent, healthy and fulfilled living in the community with the highest quality personalised and supportive social and healthy care services				
7.9 Implement the 2011-14 Children and Young people's Plan including "roll out" of Common Assessment and Integrated Family Support Teams	April 2014			See paragraph 3.1.1
9. To secure a modern and high performing range of learning, cultural, play and leisure opportunities for all ages with our schools, colleges and other partners.				
9.1 Implement organisational change under the School Modernisation Strategy and the national 21 st Century Schools Programme	2012 to 2015			See paragraph 3.1.2
9.3 Complete reviews of the school funding formula and delegation of funding	Sep 2013			See paragraph 3.1.3
9.8 Implement the Youth Strategy	Oct 2013			See paragraph 3.1.4


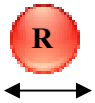
2.2 Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC)

The table below summarises the position of SARCs at the end of the reporting period.

KEY

	High Risk
	Medium Risk
	Low Risk

Commentary is included in section 3 for the following SARC as it shows a Red RAG status:

SARC	Previous RAG Status	Current RAG Status	Green Predictive
CD 20 School Buildings/School Modernisation (see paragraph 3.2)			2018

2.3.1 Performance Indicators and Outcome Measures

There are no improvement targets/outcome measures for this service currently.

2.4 Key Actions from Service Plan Monitoring

The following table shows the progress made against key areas of improvement/actions in the LLL Development & Resources service plan. A ✘ indicates those areas which have

incurred slippage or have been subject to a revised timetable and references the page number where commentary can be found to further explain the slippage/revised timescales:

Key - ✓ on track, ✗ behind schedule, C completed

Improvement Area	On-track?	Commentary
1 Compliance with School Admissions Code	✓	Required to comply with National Guidance.
2 Review of Special/mainstream school and college transport to achieve efficiency savings	✓	Transport review report to be submitted to Cabinet in November.
3. Update LL web pages	✓	Ongoing process – Leisure now completed.
4. Management of Schools capital programme	✓	Management of the Capital Programme monitored by Corporate Asset Management Group at bi-monthly meetings.
5. Management of schools assets	✓	Repairs and Maintenance budget regularly monitored to ensure efficient use of the resources. All work prioritised according to surveyors reports.
6. Increase representation by schools at governor development events	✓	Flintshire Governors Association and a regular training programme ensures a higher than average participation in governor development events.

2.5 Internal & External Regulatory Reports

The following external audit work has been completed during the quarter and the outcome of the work can be summarised as follows. Outcomes are discussed in more detail in section 3.

Undertaken By	Title & Date Report Received	Overall Report Status
Estyn	Report on the quality of local authority education services for children and young people in Flintshire County Council	Adequate See paragraph 3.4 for further detail

3. Exception Reporting

3.1 Improvement Plan

3.1.1 - 7.9 Implement the 2011-14 Children and Young People's Plan "Making a Positive Difference" including the "roll out" of the Team Around the Family delivery

The Team Around the Family, (TAF), element of the Integrated Family Support Team has received and supported 85 family referrals since 01.03.12. This has exceeded expectations and has resulted in further staff recruitment. The TAF team has trained over 150 professionals on how to refer to the service and has a rolling programme of delivery of training which is available to all sectors. The Joint assessment protocol is established and functioning. Outcomes are now being delivered and there are case studies available.

The strategic Families First plan will be updated and re submitted to Welsh Government by 08.12.12. The Families First Plan has received positive feedback from Welsh Government. The full Families First commissioning has been completed within timescale and all seven strategic projects are now operational and in delivery mode w.e.f. 01.10.12. The evaluation framework for this new programme has been developed with an outcomes based focus.

3.1.2 - 9.1 Implement organisational change under the School Modernisation Strategy and the National 21st Century Schools Programme

Design work on the new primary school in Shotton has been signed-off, and consultations on the formal process of amalgamation completed. Enabling works scheduled for January/February 2013.

Consultations for the three area reviews in Buckley/Queensferry/Connah's Quay and Holywell are completed. Discussions ongoing about the final submissions to Welsh Government in relation to the 21st Century Schools Grant. Statutory notices relating to amalgamations at Hawarden and Shotton being prepared.

3.1.3 - 9.3 Complete reviews of the school funding formula and delegation of funding

The detailed work undertaken to review the funding formula is now nearing completion, and consultations with the Headteacher Federations taken place. The outcome of the consultations has been reported to the Schools Budget Forum and it is expected that implementation will be for the academic year 2013-14.

3.1.4 - 9.8 Implement the Youth Strategy

Consultations undertaken with members of the service in order to reduce the numbers of middle management, and to more efficiently deploy Youth Workers. Work is continuing with the transfer of assets to community groups when ever this can be undertaken by a Community Management Committee. This process should lead to a reduction in the cost of liabilities for repairs and building maintenance.

3.2 Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges

CD20 - Condition, suitability and sufficiency of education assets

Despite previous increases in the repair and maintenance budget, a significant backlog will remain for the foreseeable future. Pressure on the repair and maintenance budget will increase with the reduction in spending due to the economic climate. Actions to mitigate the risks are progressing, however this is a long term risk and will take many years to address, therefore the risk status has been evaluated as high (red). Initial consultation on school modernisation has now been completed in accordance with the agreed timeline and further consultations on the preferred options will take place in November.

3.3 Key actions from Service Plan Monitoring

3.3.1 - Review of Special/mainstream school and college transport to achieve efficiency savings

Route reviews of school transport have been carried out using specialist software which has resulted in rationalisation of routes. Monitoring of college transport resulted in a reduction in contracts from Easter to July 2012. However, it is likely that due to increased demand additional contracts will be needed again from September 2012. The North Wales Regional Transport Review has been completed and specific efficiency projects arising from the Review are being progressed, including a review of hazardous routes. Regionally, the North Wales Strategic Directors Group is developing management and organisational issues arising from the Review. The options in relation to entitlement policy need further consideration, following through earlier work undertaken by the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee. A report on the options will be submitted to the Cabinet in November.

3.3.2 - Management of schools assets

A consultation on the policy for managing school financial assets has been initiated at the School Budget Forum. This is intended to ensure that Primary and Secondary schools maintain reserves of lower than £50k and £100k respectively. Rationalisation of assets and school places will be addressed within the implementation of the School Modernisation Programme. Condition, suitability and sufficiency surveys are being reviewed on an on-going basis, (20% of stock per year).

This page is intentionally left blank

Quarterly Performance Report – Culture and Leisure

Report Author Lawrence Rawsthorne
Report Date February 2013
Report Period Quarter 3: October - December 2012

Introduction

The report is produced on a quarterly basis and provided to Executive members for review and assurance and will be available for Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of their Forward Work Programmes.

The report consists of an overview of the key messages to highlight across all work streams in Culture & Leisure, which is followed by highlights from each service area. Parts 2 and 3 of the report include an assessment of performance in the quarter from the following sources:

- Improvement Plan Monitoring
- Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges
- Performance Indicators and Outcome Measures
- Improvement Target Action Plan Monitoring
- Key Actions from Service Plan Monitoring
- Internal and external regulatory reports
- Customer satisfaction and feedback
- Awards and accreditations
- Resource Management (HR, ICT, Finance, Assets)

1. Foreword

1.1 Introduction

The Culture & Leisure division of the Lifelong Learning Directorate delivers the following services: Leisure Centres, Sports Development, Public Open Spaces, Play, Public Libraries, North East Wales Schools Library Service, Museums, Archives, Records Management, Arts, Culture & Events.

1.2.1 Leisure Services

On 6 November 2012, the Chairman and Leader of Flintshire County Council led the renaming and opening of the remodelled Pavilion Leisure Centre in Flint. The Centre has been renamed the Jade Jones Pavilion Flint, and the Taekwondo Olympic Champion attended the ceremony.

On 11 December 2012, the Chairman and Leader of Flintshire County Council joined Paralympian Beverley Jones at the unveiling of a plaque at Deeside Leisure Centre to celebrate her achievement.

The number of recorded visits to leisure centres in Quarter 3, where the visitor participated in physical activity, was 20.69% up on the figure for Quarter 3 2011/12.

1.2.2 Arts, Culture and Events:

In 1991 Japanese firm Optec Limited of Japan commenced trading in Flintshire. As a gesture of goodwill they established a trust fund to promote and advance education by funding exchange visits for the young people of Flintshire to Japan. Six students have been selected for the 2013 Japanese Youth Exchange, they are from Elfed High School, Buckley, Alun High School, Mold (2 pupils), St. Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Flint, Ysgol Maes Garmon, Mold and Connah's Quay High School. The 2013 exchange will take place between the 29 of July, when the Japanese students arrive in the UK and the 27 of August when the Flintshire students arrive home. All the students fly out to Japan on the 12 of August which means, excluding travel days, the students spend 13 days in each country.

Flintshire was the lead authority in the Criw Celf regional visual art project targeted at more able and talented year 5 and 6 pupils. The 26 Flintshire students for the 2011/2012 master classes were chosen from 79 applicants nominated by their schools after showing special talent and/or interest in art and in developing their artistic skills and experiences. They worked with three professional and experienced artists, Ruth Thomas, Jan Gardner and Cefyn Burgess for a total of 6 days, training in various art genres. The students received art packs containing quality art materials. They visited galleries and exhibitions of their artwork were staged in Flintshire and at Oriel Mostyn, Llandudno.

1.2.3 Archives:

The service has established a presence on the photo sharing website Flickr which is proving popular with local historians.

1.2.4 Libraries:

The service's e-library has started with the introduction of downloadable audio books and e-books in October, followed by the launch of an e-magazine service in November.

Mold Library re-opened in October after a refurbishment of the lending library and children's library funded by CyMAL.

'The kids took over the library' at Flint for a one day promotional event on 31st October which was attended by over 800 children who took part in activities including magic shows, animal shows, author visits, treasure hunts, competitions and issuing their own library books.

2. Performance Summary

2.1 Improvement Plan Monitoring

The following table summarises the progress made to date and the progress against the desired outcome of the Council Improvement Priorities on which Culture and Leisure Services lead.







KEYS

Progress RAG

R	Limited Progress - delay in scheduled activity; not on track
A	Satisfactory Progress - some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track
G	Good Progress - activities completed on schedule, on track

Outcome RAG

R	Low - lower level of confidence in the achievement of outcome(s)
A	Medium - uncertain level of confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s)
G	High - full confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s)

Council Priority	Target Date	Progress RAG	Outcome RAG	Commentary
9. To secure a modern and high performing range of learning, cultural, play and leisure opportunities for all ages with our schools, colleges and other partners				
9.6. Implement the priorities of the Leisure Strategy including (1) new operational arrangements (2) leisure centre renewal programme.	On-going			See 3.1
9.7. Implement the priorities of the Libraries, Arts and Play Strategies.	On-going			See 3.2
9.9 Facilitate support and provide a range of community events from high profile international events to locally organised community events	On-going			See 3.5

2.2 Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC)


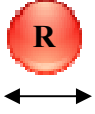



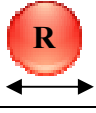
The table below summarises the position of SARCs at the end of the reporting period.

KEY

R	High Risk
A	Medium Risk
G	Low Risk

Commentary is included in section 3 for those SARCS: -

- that are showing a Red RAG status
- where the RAG status has changed since the last reporting period
- where the Green Predictive Date has changed since the last reporting period
- where there has been considerable change or additions of secondary risks and activity

SARC	Previous RAG Status	Current RAG Status	Green Predictive
CD10a - Revenue Funding See section 3.3			TBC
CD10b - Capital Projects See section 3.4			TBC
CD10c - Play Strategy See section 3.2			TBC

2.3 Performance Indicators and Outcome Measures


Key

R	Target missed
A	Target missed but within an acceptable level
G	Target achieved or exceeded


The status of the indicators are summarised for this quarter below:

 0
  0
  2

Graphs and commentary are included section 3 for those indicators shown with a RAG status of either Amber or Red. An asterisk (*) indicates that the indicator is an improvement target.

Indicator	Annual Target	Previous Quarter Outturn	Current Quarter Target	Current Quarter Outturn	RAG	Change e.g. Improved / Downturned
NSI LCS/002 The number of visits to local authority sport and leisure centres during the year per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in physical activity	9,351.48	2,473.63	2057.33	2636.41		Improved
LCL 001 The number of people using Public Library Services during the year per 1,000 population.	5750	Measured annually				To be advised in Quarter 4
LCL 002a The number of publicly accessible computers per 10,000 population	11.41	Measured annually				To be advised in Quarter 4
LCL 002b The percentage of available computer hours in use	40%	Measured annually				To be advised in Quarter 4
LCL 003 The percentage of library material requests supplied within 7 calendar days	75.00%	Measured annually				To be advised in Quarter 4
LCL 004 The number of library materials issued, during the year, per 1,000 population	5275	Measured annually				To be advised in Quarter 4
Indicator	Annual Target	Previous Quarter Outturn	Current Quarter Target	Current Quarter Outturn	RAG	Change e.g. Improved / Downturned
IMPROVEMENT SUCCESS MEASURES						
LCL/001b IP9.7.1 - The number of visits to Public Libraries during the year, per, 1,000 population	TBC (new pi for 2011/12)	Data collected on an Annual basis				

Welsh Government Outcome Agreement Theme 9 (OAT9M1):

Indicator	Annual Target (2012/13)	Previous Quarter Outturn (Q2)	Current Quarter Target (Q3)	Current Quarter Outturn (Q3)	RAG	Change e.g. Improved / Downturned
OAT9M1 number of visits to local authority sport and leisure	10,500.00	2802.93	2310.00	3087.51		Improved

centres during the year per 1,000 population where the visitor will be participating in leisure and physical activity						
---	--	--	--	--	--	--

Archive Service local performance indicator: real and virtual visits and remote enquiries (email and post):

Quarter	2011/12	2012/13
April to June	1,989	2,382
July to September	2,373	2,659
October to Dec.	2,364	3,483
January to March	2,412	
total	9,138	

2.4 Key Actions from Service Plan Monitoring

The following table shows progress on key actions / areas for improvement in the service plan. A ✘ indicates those areas which have incurred slippage or have been subject to a revised timetable and references the section in the report where commentary can be found to further explain the slippage/revised timescales:

Key - ✓ on track, ✘ behind schedule, C completed

AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT:	On-track ?	Commentary
Implement a new Leisure Services' staffing structure in accordance with FCC Guide to Organisational Design for Senior Managers	✘	See section 3.1.
Increase the %age of customer payments made electronically via on-line bookings (2012/13 will serve as the baseline year for the purpose of future comparison)	✓	Net income from on-line bookings during Quarter 3 was 62.69% up on the previous Quarter.
Meet/exceed the Active Young People Programme targets agreed with the <i>Creating an Active Flintshire</i> Partnership Board and <i>Sport Wales</i>	✓	
Increase participation in sport and physical activity	✓	See 2.3, indicator 1, N.S.I. LCS/002
Improve RAG status of children's play areas via the match-funding improvement scheme	✓	FCC has committed £126,500 to match-fund improvements to 19 play areas during 2012/13.

		Outstanding works are scheduled for completion during Qtr 4.
Complete condition survey of all changing pavilions across the County and develop a RAG status to inform future investment	✓	Survey complete and referred to Capital Asset Management Group
Complete condition survey of the ten artificial turf pitches and develop a RAG status to inform future investment	✓	Survey complete and referred to Capital Asset Management Group
Work in partnership with Fields in Trust to secure a protection in perpetuity of recreation grounds nominated as designated Queen Elizabeth II Fields	✗	projected Q4
Update library stock management software and introduce e-book services	C	E-book service, e-magazine and downloadable audio services introduced
Online access to holdings of archive and museum services on FCC website	✗	Expected implementation Q4
To achieve renewal of accreditation of Buckley, Mold and Greenfield Valley museums	C	achieved
Implementation of Civica Records Management software module	✗	Expected implementation Q4
Archives accommodation: secure an adequate quantity of BS5454-compliant storage, improved public facilities and DDA compliance throughout	✗	See section 3.6

2.5 Internal & External Regulatory Reports

The following internal or external audit/regulatory work has been completed during the quarter and the outcome of the work can be summarised as follows. Negative outcomes are discussed in more detail below.

The Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee have referred the following matter to the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny for further consideration:

Leisure Services variance of £0.139

The variance is explained as follows:

At month 6 we revised the income projections by using 10 months of actual trading data. This trading data shows an increase in income each month as usage has increased. However, the figures are lower than the original projections because for every month, the actual income figures were around £20k lower than the original Alliance figures. There were also a number of minor variances elsewhere in Leisure Services which made up the £0.139m.

3. Exception Reporting:

3.1. Implement a new Leisure Services' staffing structure in accordance with FCC Guide to Organisational Design & Improvement priority 9.6

New Job Evaluation Questionnaires (JEQs) were considered by JEQ panels during Quarter 3. It is anticipated that, subject to approval, the implementation of the new staffing structure will be aligned to the Single Status implementation date.

3.2 Improvement Priority 9.7 & SARC: CD10c - Delivery of the Flintshire Play Strategy

The replacement of *Cymorth* funding with the new Welsh Government *Families First* grant has resulted in a reduction in grant which will impact on the delivery of the Play Strategy. Town & Community Councils have been advised that the number of play schemes available to them during summer 2013 will be limited to a maximum of two; and that summer play scheme provision will be reduced from five weeks to three weeks at locations to be agreed in local consultation.

The Task and Finish Group set up by this committee at its meeting on 10 January 2013, to consider the arrangements for the Summer Play Scheme met three times and reported on its work at the meeting held on 25 January 2013.

3.3 SARC: CD10a - Revenue Funding

There is currently a projected in-year Leisure Services' deficit circa £690k. This figure includes the monthly loan repayments to *Alliance Leisure Services* for 2012/13, relating to the capital projects at Deeside and Flint Pavilion Leisure Centres.

3.4 SARC: CD10b - Capital Projects

Both capital works projects at Deeside and Flint Pavilion were completed on time and within budget.

3.5 Community Events

The purpose of this new Council priority is to achieve a co-ordinated and consistent approach to community events by facilitating the creation and nurture of a range of events to maximise their social, economic and cultural benefits. The scope includes attracting and hosting high profile, high quality events of international and national significance and supporting locally organised community events. Planned future actions include the development of an events management strategy with supporting guidance including a community events pack.

3.6 Archives accommodation: secure an adequate quantity of BS5454-compliant storage, improved public facilities and DDA compliance throughout

This might be achieved by modifying the existing building or a new building, on our own or in partnership. It is likely that the service will need additional storage before any plans can come to fruition. Investigations have started to arrange off-site storage for low-usage collections.

Strategic Assessment of Risks & Challenges' RAG

Summary (Refresh)

Risk Title	2012-2013					Predictive Green/Amber
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	
Community Leadership	Dec 11	Mar 12	June 12	Sept 12	Dec 12	
Affordable Housing	A	A	A			
Social Care For Older People	A	A	A	A ↔	A	TBC
Relationship with Local Health Board & Public & Primary Health	A	A	R	R ↑	R	TBC
Climate Change & Flood Risk Management	A	A	A	A ↔	A	SEPT 2017
Economic Regeneration	A	A	A	A ↔	A	TBC
County Town Network Regeneration & Protection	G	G	G	G ↓	G	FEB 2011
Integrated and Public Transport Infrastructure (External)	A	A	A	A ↔	A	2015/16
Skills Needs of Employers	G	G	G	G ↔	G	OCT 2011
North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Partnership	A	A	A	A ↔	A	2016/17
Clwyd Theatr Cymru (CTC)	A	A	A	G ↓	G	SEPT 2012
Council Delivery	Dec 11	Mar 12	June 12	Sept 12	Dec 12	Predictive Green/Amber
Streetscene	A	A	A	A ↑	A	TBC
Transistion from UDP to LDP	G	G	G	A ↑	A	SEPT 2017
Planning Protocol	G	G	G	G ↓	G	MAR 2012
Highways Infrastructure	A	A	A	A ↔	A	TBC
Transport Arrangments For Service Users	A	A	A	A ↔	A	DEC 2013
Depot Provision	A	A	A	A ↔	A	DEC 2013
Connah's Quay, Shotton & Deeside Housing Renewal Area	A	A	A	R ↑	R	MAR 2020
Leisure - Revenue Funding	R	R	R	R ↔	R	TBC
Leisure - Capital Projects	A	A	A	A ↔	A	TBC
Leisure - Play Strategy	A	A	A	R ↔	R	TBC
Housing Strategy	A	A	A			
Housing Management	A	A	A	A ↔	A	TBC
Housing Repairs and Maintenance Services	A	A	A	A ↔	A	APR 2013
Homelessness	A	A	A			
Sheltered Housing	A	A	A	A ↔	A	NOV 2013
Gypsies and Travellers	A	A	A	A ↔	A	TBC
School Buildings/School modernisation	R	R	R	R ↔	R	2018
School Improvement - Regional Project	A	A	A	A ↔	A	APR 2013
Procurement of Independent Sector placements for looked after children	A	A	A	A ↓	A	TBC
Disabled Facilities Grants	A	A	A	A ↔	A	MAR 2013
Waste Management Targets/Food Waste Treatment Project	A	A	A	A ↔	A	2016/17
Waste Management Operations	A	A	A	A ↔	A	2016/17
Severe Winter Weather	A	A	A	A ↔	A	TBC
Food Waste Treatment Project	A	A		A ↔	G	SEPT 2012
Welfare Reform		R	R	R ↓	R	2016/17
Council Governance	Dec 11	Mar 12	June 12	Sept 12	Dec 12	Predictive Green/Amber
Asset Management - Strategic	A	A	A	A ↔	A	2015/16
Asset Rationalisation	A	A	A	A ↔	A	2015/16
Medium Term Financial Strategy	A	A	A	A ↔	A	TBC
Financial Management and Control	A	A	A	A ↔	A	TBC
ICT Strategy	G	G	G	G ↔	G	DEC 2011
Information Governance	A	A	A	A ↔	A	TBC
Human Resources and Management	A	A	A	A ↔	A	MAR 2013
Single Status and Terms and Conditions of Employment	A	A	A	A ↔	A	JUN 2013
Customer Focus	G	G	G	G ↔	G	JUN 2011
Workforce and Succession Planning	A	A	A	A ↔	A	MAR 2013
Procurement	A	A	A	A ↔	A	MAR 2013
Business Continuity (including Winter Disruption)	A	A	A	G ↔	G	SEPT 2012
Flintshire Futures	A	A	A	A ↔	A	MAR 2013
Data Protection		R	R	R ↔	R	TBC

This page is intentionally left blank

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **14 MARCH 2013**

REPORT BY: **HOUSING & LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FACILITATOR**

SUBJECT: **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Items feed into a Committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny Committees, members of the public can suggest topics, items can be referred by the Cabinet for consultation purposes, or by County Council, or Directors. Other possible items are identified from the Cabinet Work Programme and the Strategic Assessment of Risks & Challenges.

2.02 In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:

1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives?
2. 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?
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 programme of the Committee of which they are members. By reviewing and prioritising the forward work programme Members are able to ensure it is member-led and

includes the right issues. A copy of the Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration which has been updated following the last meeting.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the Committee considers the draft Forward Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 and approve/amend as necessary.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 None as a result of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 None as a result of this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None as a result of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None as a result of this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None as a result of this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 N/A

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – Forward Work Programme.

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

None.

Contact Officer: Ceri Owen
Telephone: 01352 702305
Email: ceri.owen@flintshire.gov.uk

DRAFT

Date	Item	Purpose of Report/Session	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/ Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
21 March Joint meeting with Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny 2pm	Educational attainment of Looked After Children	To receive the annual educational attainment report/	Performance Monitoring	Director of Lifelong Learning	11 March
	Children and Young People Partnership	To provide Members with the annual update.	Progress Report	Director of Lifelong Learning	
	Corporate Parenting Activity Update	To provide an update to Members on Corporate Parenting Activity	Monitoring Report	Director of Community Services	
	Local Safeguarding Children's Board	To receive an update report on the work of the Board	Progress Report	Director of CS Director of LLL	
	Young Carers	To inform Members how services identify and provide specialist support for young carers in Flintshire.	Information Report	Director of CS Director of LLL	
Families First	To provide an update to Members	Progress Report	Director of CS Director of LLL		

LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

APPENDIX 1

Date	Item	Purpose of Report/Session	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/ Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
25 April	School Music Service	To provide Members with an update on the School Music Service	Service Delivery	Director of Lifelong Learning	17 April
	Lifelong Learning Directorate Plan	To consider the Lifelong Learning Directorate Plan	Service Delivery	Director of Lifelong Learning	
6 June	Q4/Year end performance reporting	To enable members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Performance Monitoring	Facilitator	29 May
11 July	To be agreed				2 July

Page 88

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

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
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
December	Health & Safety In Schools	To receive a summary report on accidents and incidents in schools during the academic year and the actions taken to support schools in achieving healthy and safe environments. (monitoring report)	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

Item to be Scheduled

Regional Transport update

Disposal of redundant assets

Alliance Leisure to be invited to attend a future meeting

This page is intentionally left blank