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Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democraidd



To: Cllr Ian Roberts (Chair)

CS/NG

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

13 June 2014

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

**Janine Beggan, David Hytch, Rita Price,
Rebecca Stark and Reverend John Thelwell**

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, 19TH JUNE, 2014** 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 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR**
Nominations will be sought for a Vice-Chair for the Committee.

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

- 4 **MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 14)
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 2 May (joint meeting), and 15 May 2014.
- 5 **POST 16 COMMISSIONING AND PLANNING CYCLE** (Pages 15 - 26)
Report of Chief Officer, Education and Youth
- 6 **EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT & MODERNISATION STRATEGY** (Pages 27 - 46)
Report of Chief Officer, Education and Youth
- 7 **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LEISURE FINANCE TASK & FINISH GROUP** (Pages 47 - 54)
Report of Housing and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator
- 8 **LIFELONG LEARNING FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 55 - 60)
Report of Housing and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator

Agenda Item 4

JOINT LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2 MAY 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Lifelong Learning and Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Mold on Friday, 2 May 2014

PRESENT:

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Amanda Bragg, Peter Curtis, Adele Davies-Cooke, Ian Dunbar, Cindy Hinds, Stella Jones, Phil Lightfoot, Mike Lowe, David Mackie, Nancy Matthews, Ann Minshull, Hilary McGill, Ian Roberts, Paul Shotton, Ian Smith, Nigel Steele-Mortimer and David Wisinger

Co-opted members: Mr David Hÿtch and Mrs Rita Price

APOLOGIES: Councillors: Andy Dunbobbin, Carol Ellis, Hilary Isherwood, Colin Legg, Brian Lloyd and David Williams
Mrs Stephanie Williams

CONTRIBUTORS: Cabinet Member for Social Services, Cabinet Member for Education, Director of Community Services, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Children's Services, Service Manager (Resources), Service Manager (Children's Fieldwork Services) and Advisor for Social Inclusion & Wellbeing

Ann Hood of the North East Wales Sensory Support Service (for minute no. 6)

IN ATTENDANCE: Environment and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator, Housing & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

9. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

A nomination for Councillor Ian Roberts was duly seconded and on being put to the vote, was carried.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ian Roberts be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr David Hÿtch declared a personal interest on Agenda Item 4 as a school governor.

The following Members declared personal interests on Agenda Item 7: Vision Impairment Support to Children and Adults in Flintshire:

- Councillor Peter Curtis, as a Trustee of WCB and Vision Support.

- Councillor Nancy Matthews, due to a visually impaired relative and also as a former Trustee of Vision Support.
- Councillor Hilary McGuill, as her grandson was a service user.

11. CHANGE TO ORDER OF AGENDA

It was agreed that Agenda Item 5 would be considered prior to Item 4 to allow the necessary officers to be present.

12. CORPORATE PARENTING

The Head of Children's Services introduced the annual report on corporate parenting progress within the Council. She provided information on the role of the Children's Services Forum which monitored the Council's activity in this area and ensured that the views of looked after children were heard. Information was also shared on Independent Reviewing Officers who chaired children's planning meetings and had the powers to refer cases to the Welsh Government if there were concerns around the care of an individual. As part of the arrangements, a resolution protocol had been adopted to give assurance that unresolved issues were escalated to a senior officer to pursue. The Head of Children's Services advised that the outcomes of a recent CSSIW inspection would be reported in due course and went on to draw attention to a report published in July 2013 on looked after children across Wales, copies of which were available upon request.

Councillor Ian Dunbar spoke of the annual Pride of Flintshire Awards which celebrated the achievements of looked after children in the county.

Councillor Paul Shotton praised the success of the 'A2A' identification card initiative, and asked about safeguards on the use of internet sites. The Service Manager (Resources) explained that children and young people were provided with basic information on accessing websites as part of their educational experience, which included an element on protection. In addition, a foster carers' safety policy ensured that foster children had fair access to the internet with monitoring carried out by the foster carers as part of their role.

As members of the Children's Services Forum, Councillors David Mackie and Hilary McGuill spoke favourably about its important role within the Council. Whilst it was recognised that progress was being made on the format of reports and joint working with Housing on accommodation for care leavers, there were some concerns about the delay by the Health Board in rolling out the A2A card in health settings.

In response to a query regarding safe use of websites, the Service Manager (Resources) confirmed that foster carers were given the opportunity to attend school training sessions and agreed to provide more detail on this to the Committee.

The Chairman referred to concerns about the potential for misuse of social media and said that the same expectation for parents to monitor their children's safety on the internet also applied to foster parents.

The Cabinet Member for Social Services reiterated that Members were corporate parents and encouraged those present and others to take part in the corporate parenting training. As part of the recent inspection, representations had been made for this training to become mandatory.

As Chair of the Children's Services Forum, the Cabinet Member for Education expressed his gratitude to the Head of Children's Services for the positive contribution that she had made to the service and to the Pride of Flintshire Awards which placed value on the achievements of children and young people. He paid tribute to her influence in raising the profile of the Forum of which he was proud to be Chair and went on to describe the work of the Forum in providing a direct link between Members, officers and children and young people in care.

During the item, other Members took the opportunity to congratulate the Head of Children's Services on her forthcoming retirement and wished her well for the future. Warm tributes were paid for her significant contribution to the service which would be sadly missed.

RESOLVED:

That the value of the work being undertaken to ensure the Council is meeting its corporate parenting aims and obligations be recognised.

13. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced the report on the educational attainment of looked after children in Flintshire during the academic year 2012-13. Information was provided on the work of the Task Group set up to develop a series of recommendations to ensure that all children achieved their potential. As part of this, it was important that Personal Education Plans were reviewed and monitored, with training provided to those in support such as carers, social workers and education professionals. Reference was made to the significant challenges in terms of data, due to the importance of reporting outcomes for all looked after children in the county. An increase in funding to £918 per pupil, through the Pupil Deprivation Grant would provide coaching and mentoring to make a difference in outcomes of looked after children, however this was currently only available for one year.

Following a question raised by Councillor Ian Dunbar on education outcomes for Year 11 pupils, the Advisor for Social Inclusion & Wellbeing referred to the differences in data reporting methods by Councils and that Flintshire's approach to include all looked after children and young people, including those opting out of education, employment or training, was vital in order to provide meaningful data. He added that the creation of the Task

Group provided an interface between Children's Services, Education and Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and had proved beneficial in helping individuals to reach their potential. The focus of the Task Group was on aspirations and achievements.

The Director spoke of changes in the demography of the cohort arising from an increase in younger children entering the care system which meant that basic support mechanisms needed to be co-ordinated to ensure that appropriate interventions could be put in place at an earlier stage.

In response to comments from Councillor Paul Shotton, it was explained that the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy would help to identify shortfalls in learning to all pupils, however looked after children were considered a priority.

Councillor Amanda Bragg referred to agreement for each school to have a looked after children co-ordinator and asked about the potential for this role to be carried out by a school governor with information on pupils remaining confidential. This would be followed up by the Director.

The Head of Children's Services asked if training on looked after children could be extended to school governors to promote understanding of why individuals were placed within the care system. The Director agreed that this would be useful, however in Wales, mandatory training for voluntary governors was limited.

Whilst Councillor Stella Jones acknowledged the need to report data, it was important to remember that the experiences of the children and young people to whom the figures related were of greater significance and to ensure that they were safe and given the best opportunities.

In response to a query from Councillor Nigel Steele-Mortimer, the Director advised that all schools tracked and monitored progress of pupils in a range of curriculum areas to identify any interventions needed. A regional system to be developed across North Wales would add to that already in place at individual schools, with tracking continuing cross-border if a pupil moved out of county.

Councillor Hilary McGuill asked if a survey was taken on post-16 education to seek views on whether looked after children felt that their circumstances had held them back in any way. The Head of Children's Services said that this type of data was incorporated in a survey collated by focus groups and that details would be shared with the Committee and Children's Services Forum.

Councillor Peter Curtis spoke of positive outcomes from the former disability sub-group at Holywell High School which he felt should be reinstated in all schools, perhaps with the potential to include looked after children (with appropriate training provided) within its remit. The Director said that support

for this type of model may work better in secondary schools and could be raised with governing bodies.

In respect of Councillor Bragg's suggestion, Councillor Nancy Matthews stressed the importance of anonymity for looked after children within schools and that any training for governors to act as co-ordinators must relate to this process rather than the individuals themselves.

In support of this, the Cabinet Member for Education felt it was possible for governors to take on this role to look after the interests of looked after children within a school setting. He went on to stress the importance of using the additional funding to good effect due to its limited availability and the potential for schools to pool this money. He spoke of the excellent role that foster carers carried out and the need for them to be given appropriate training and development opportunities to enable them to continue encouraging the educational development of looked after children.

The Service Manager (Resources) explained that although attendance at training was not compulsory, there was an expectation for foster parents to assume the same responsibilities as parents in terms of homework and ensuring attendance at school.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the work of the looked after children steering group made up of Education and Children's Services staff is acted upon to increase the levels of attainment of looked after children, by developing strategies and spending plans for the School Effectiveness Grant and the looked after children Pupil Deprivation Grant which has doubled to £918 for the financial year 2014/15;
- (b) That the literacy and numeracy strategy be used to further identify and up-skill those children and young people who may not be achieving their potential;
- (c) That those children who have Additional Learning Needs continue to access specialist support to help them reach their potential;
- (d) The Directorates of Social Services and Lifelong Learning continue to work collaboratively to further enhance and embed consistent approaches with regard to looked after children;
- (e) That there is a continuation of support for looked after children from the School Effectiveness Grant from the Welsh Government;
- (f) That work to develop a database on a regional basis to reflect the needs and support provision required for all looked after children continues;

- (g) The positive collaboration across local authorities should continue to be encouraged so that cross-border working and information sharing improves;
- (h) To record the Committee's gratitude to the foster carers in Flintshire for their work; and
- (i) That a Governor Champion be appointed for looked after children / safeguarding.

14. SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION REPORT

The Director of Community Services introduced the report providing statistical information in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding, which was a priority area for the Council. He said that the new structure may provide an opportunity to consider safeguarding reports for both children and adults together and went on to thank the Head of Children's Services and her team for their response to the increase in child protection referrals, together with support from the Cabinet resulting in the provision of additional resources to maintain the quality of the service.

The Head of Children's Services highlighted the activity within the report along with positive corporate responses to reaffirm the Council's commitment on child safety. In highlighting earlier comments that children were behind each statistic in the report, she pointed out that removing a child from their parents was not a decision taken lightly but was unavoidable in some cases.

Councillor Ian Dunbar referred to the increase in child protection registrations during the latter part of 2013 from 58 to 158 but acknowledged the need to sanction this for the children's protection. He recognised the work carried out by the service and asked what measures were being put in place to meet the increasing demand. The Service Manager, Children's Fieldwork Services, reported that the figure had since reduced to 126, with 18 on the temporary register. Over the last quarter, there had been 138 child protection investigations of which 19 had proceeded to case conferences. He explained that a multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) approach was taken and believed that the improvements in the service provided assurance of a robust process.

On children's safeguarding, the implementation of the Public Law Outline had presented challenges in terms of a much tighter deadline for completion of Court hearings, however progress was being made.

RESOLVED:

That the report be accepted as information in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding for the period 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2013.

15. VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN FLINTSHIRE

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced the report outlining current provision of support to children and adults with a visual impairment in Flintshire.

Ms Ann Hood provided an overview of the work of the North East Wales Sensory Support Service for children and young people across Wrexham, Denbighshire and Flintshire. The key driver for the service was derived from national policy of a collaborative approach and enabled specialist services to be delivered with increased flexibility and shared resources.

In response to a query from Councillor Paul Shotton, the Director of Community Services confirmed the availability of the Talking Book service and explained that services for adults could involve referrals to partner Ophthalmologists to provide various necessary equipment. The report outlined the support and advice provided by Vision Support who played a key role in the service.

Clarification was given to Councillor Hilary McGuill on 'Loan to Learn' books which could be downloaded from the website and the provision of textbooks available through the sub-regional service or schools. On the availability of software to help those with visual impairments, the Director of Lifelong Learning explained that software licences would need to be paid for by schools as this was a delegated responsibility. Ringfenced funding to schools would need to be allocated to any equipment required, such as handrails, however equipment for young people with a Statement of Educational Needs would be provided by the Council.

Councillor Peter Curtis thanked the team for the report, particularly in relation to the psychological effects arising from the loss of sight with which he empathised, but felt that more could be done to encourage others to become more aware of those with visual impairments. As examples, he suggested the provision of computers to those who could not afford them, the use of 'talking' buses and encouraging retailers to think more creatively about their customers' needs by providing visual aids. He went on to refer to his request to reinstate the disability sub-group mentioned earlier in the meeting as this had generated a great deal of positive work about visual impairment.

Ms Hood advised that the sub-regional service provided mobility support for young people and helped them to understand travel timetables.

The Director of Community Services agreed with Councillor Curtis' comments on encouraging awareness of the wider business community and agreed to raise these with the Local Service Board sub-group on health, independence and well-being. However, administrative capacity issues continued to be an issue in reinstating the disability sub-group.

Councillor Nancy Matthews referred to an increase in cases of age-related macular degeneration and felt that a central equipment store was needed. Ms Hood explained that a central budget was held by the sub-regional service for equipment to help young people in school environments, however it was acknowledged that some pupils would opt not to pursue this.

When asked by Councillor McGuill about raising awareness of services available, Ms Hood said that information was displayed on Moodle and could also be accessed through officers in the service working with families.

The Director of Community Services advised that an equipment budget for adults with sensory impairments was easily accessible via Occupational Therapy.

Councillor Amanda Bragg gave an example of a situation where a residential home had lacked some of the necessary equipment for Talking Books and asked if funding was available. The Director of Community Services advised that equipment for those with visual impairments would need to be sourced from the overall equipment budget and that resources would need to be creatively managed in the current climate. He referred to the need to work with partners for effective use of limited resources and suggested that it may be useful for the Council to hold an event to publicise the services on offer.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the continued provision of services to those with a visual impairment within Flintshire be supported; and
- (b) That officers raise the profile of sensory impairment through the Council and external bodies of which it is part.

16. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There was one member of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00pm and ended at 3.55pm)

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Chairman

LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
15 MAY 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council, held at Elfed High School, Buckley, on Thursday, 15 May 2014.

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors: , Amanda Bragg, Ian Dunbar, Ron Hampson, Stella Jones, Dave Mackie, Nancy Matthews, Paul Shotton, and David Williams

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: David Hytch and Reverend John Thelwell

APOLOGIES: Councillors Marion Bateman, Colin Legg, Phil Lightfoot, Ann Minshull and Nigel Steele-Mortimer. Mrs. Rebecca Stark

ALSO PRESENT: Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, and Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure.

CONTRIBUTORS:

Cabinet Member for Education, Head of Schools Improvement Service, Project Manager, Performance Team Leader, Principal Librarian, Principal Leisure Services Officer

IN ATTENDANCE:

Housing and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

86. DECLARATIONS VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman indicated that there would be a change in the order of the agenda and the item on Apprenticeships, Training and Development Opportunities would be brought forward.

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (including Whipping Declarations)

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

88. MINUTES

- (i) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31 March 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED:

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

- (ii) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 April 2014 were submitted.

RESOLVED:

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

89. IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2014/15

The Performance Team Leader gave a short presentation on the draft Improvement Plan 2014/15 and the “How achievement will be measured” document prior to final publication in June 2014. She provided background information and advised that for 2014/15 a review of the current priorities and sub-priorities had been undertaken. She referred to the main considerations in the report being presented by the Head of Schools Improvement Services and explained that the sub-priorities to be monitored and reviewed by the Committee as part of the quarterly Improvement Plan monitoring process were attached as Appendix A to the report. Members were asked to comment on the targets and milestones proposed for the 2014/15 Improvement Plan.

Councillor Aaron Shotton commented on the importance that Members were satisfied with the priorities and sub-priorities selected within the report so far.

Councillor Paul Shotton welcomed the revised Plan and referred to the adoption of a smaller set of ‘in-year’ priorities. He commented on the successful Dragon’s Den event which was recently held at Coleg Cambria and the good work undertaken by the Community First Job Club programme which had been recognised nationally.

The Head of Schools Improvement Services gave an overview of the sub-priorities for consideration by the Committee and explained how the achievements would be measured.

Mr. David Hytch commented that there was no reference to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan in the Improvement Plan. He also referred to the indicators set out on page 21 of the report and expressed concerns relating to the measurement of achievement through the percentage of learners achieving 5 or more A* to C passes at GCSE or the vocational equivalent. The Head of Schools Improvement Services advised that the indicator had been provided by the Welsh Government (WG) and explained that there was national discussion to reduce the number of GCSEs which could be achieved by setting a vocational equivalent course. Mr. Hytch expressed further concerns that too much importance was being attached to data which he felt

only advantaged schools. The Head of Schools Improvement Services advised that the range of data for outcomes was vast and commented that it was not just about the recent outcomes for learning but also about bringing enjoyment, confidence, and well-being to pupils.

Councillor Dave Mackie referred to the information provided on page 27 and suggested that the headings in the table should be continued on subsequent pages for clarity. He also referred to the aspirational target for surplus places from Summer 2014 which he felt would not be achieved. The Head of Schools Improvement Services acknowledged the point made and explained that it was a WG target for all authorities. Councillor Mackie also sought clarification on the data presented in appendix C in relation to education benchmarking indicators for the financial year 2012/13. The Performance Team Leader responded to the comments made and explained that the data provided members with the benchmarking information to show the Council's performance in comparison to other local authorities across Wales.

Councillor Stella Jones expressed a number of concerns around the use of Free School Meals as a measure for determining pupil outcomes and suggested that the Committee write to the WG to ask why they use Free School Meals for measuring outcomes in schools. Councillor Nancy Matthews suggested that the Committee receive a report on the arrangement of free school meals and how this linked to family credit before deciding on whether to write to the WG. Councillor Matthews also referred to the second activity under 'Modernised and High Performing Education' which related to educational achievements of children in a position of disadvantage including Looked After Children (LAC). She suggested that the wording be amended to reflect that the activity be that the Authority was making sure there was equal opportunity to access education for all children. Councillor Chris Bithell referred to the need to improve performance which had been highlighted by the CSSIW in the educational outcomes for LAC. The Head of Schools Improvement Services agreed to revisit the wording of the indicator but explained that it would not be possible to deviate too far from the national priority due to the funding attached.

During discussion the Head of Schools Improvement Services responded to the comments and queries raised by members concerning how the Deprivation Grant was passported to schools and how schools made the best use of resources for the "greater good" whilst ensuring that the focus was on achieving best outcomes for all children.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the contents of the draft Improvement Plan 2014/15 and the "How achievement will be measured" document be noted; and
- (b) That the comments of the Committee be collated and sent to the Performance Unit

90. APPRENTICESHIPS, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Paul Corner, Project Manager, to the meeting and invited him to give an update on progress in relation to the creation of Apprenticeships and Training opportunities. He provided background information and advised that the Authority and Local Service Board (LSB) partners had set the creation of additional apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities as a priority area for development work. He gave an overview of the main progress and achievements gained for the previous six months which were detailed in the report.

Councillor Aaron Shotton commented on the ongoing work within the Council to extend its own training programme for apprenticeships. He said that it had been nationally recognised that Flintshire was one of the best performing authorities in terms of work undertaken around the Not in Education, Employment or Training Scheme (NEETS) and referred to work to attract and engage with businesses in the area and the creation of the Deeside Enterprise Zone.

The Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure asked for further information around the quality and framework of the apprenticeship programmes. The Project Manager agreed to provide the Cabinet Member and the Committee with information on the apprenticeship model and framework.

Councillor Aaron Shotton referred to the Employers Promise scheme which gave recognition to those companies which provided quality apprenticeships. Councillor Matthews queried what qualifications were gained at the end of an apprenticeship. She also referred to the shortage of labour in the Construction industry. The Project Manager responded to the comments and queries raised and advised that job outcomes were generally high for young people who had served an apprenticeship.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the next key 'milestones' as outlined in the report be noted; and .
- (b) That the Committee receive a progress report in six months time.

91. CULTURE AND LEISURE SERVICE PLAN 2014-15

The Principal Leisure Services Officer introduced the report to provide an overview of the Culture and Leisure Service Plan for 2014/15. He provided background information and advised that the Plan linked to the Community strategy and to service specific strategies such as the Libraries Strategy.

During discussion members commented on the range of services provided by the Flintshire Library Service and the need to raise further awareness amongst the general public.

Councillor Nancy Matthews asked that the Committee received updates every 6 months on the 'footfall' at libraries in Flintshire and it was agreed that this be included as an item on the Committee's Forward Work Programme.

Mr. David Hytch raised concerns around the North East Wales Schools Library Service and the Schools' Buy Back of Service and sought clarification around the consequences if there were insufficient number of schools buying back.

Mr. Hytch also referred to Leisure Services and expressed further concerns on the possible closure of income generating facilities due to insufficient repair and maintenance revenue budgets and the absence of capital finance. In his response the Principal Leisure Services Officer referred to the work being undertaken in partnership with colleagues in other service areas to encourage use of Public Open Space amenity land for recreational purposes and activities in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the Culture and Leisure Services Plan 2014/15 be noted.

92. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LEISURE FINANCE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Housing and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator introduced a report to seek approval for a recommendation from the Leisure Finance Task & Finish Group to be supported and recommended to Cabinet for approval.

The Facilitator referred to the meeting of the Task & Finish Group which was held on 11 April 2014 and reported that during discussion around schools where dual use leisure facilities were provided, the Group proposed that officers initiated discussions with the schools to assess whether they would consider assuming responsibility for community access of the facilities in the future.

Councillor Stella Jones proposed that the recommendation from the Task and Finish Group be agreed and this was seconded.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee recommend to Cabinet that officers initiate discussions with schools where dual use leisure facilities were provided to assess whether they would consider assuming responsibility for community access of the facilities in the future.

93. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Housing and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator introduced the Forward Work Programme of the Committee. The Chairman proposed that the next meeting of the Committee scheduled for 19 June 2014 be held at Trelawnyd Voluntary Aided Church in Wales Primary School. Members would be invited to arrive at the School at 1.30 pm in order to be given a tour of the building before the Committee meeting started at 2.00 p.m. It was also suggested and agreed that the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 24 July 2014 be changed to a workshop to plan the forward work programme for the remaining year.

Members reviewed the current programme and agreed that the following items be considered at the next meeting on 19 June 2014:

- Quarterly Performance Reporting
- Inclusion Service Review

Councillor Nancy Matthews asked that the Committee also receive an update report on School Modernisation at the next meeting on the 19 June 2014.

RESOLVED:

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

94. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no members of the press or public in attendance.

(The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and ended at 4.07pm)

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Chairman

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **THURSDAY, 19 JUNE 2014**

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

SUBJECT: **POST 16 COMMISSIONING & PLANNING CYCLE**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To update Councillors on the requirements for the commissioning and planning cycle for 2015-16, under the new national Post 16 Planning and Funding Framework.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Funding for provision of post 16 education is provided through specific grant by the Welsh Government. Under new arrangements, Local Authorities are required to undertake an annual commissioning and planning cycle as a condition of funding. The planning cycle itself is focused on securing high quality provision for learners and meeting published ministerial priorities. Local Authorities have an important role in the development and submission of plans. Local Authorities are asked to carefully consider the information they submit and ensure that it reflects realistic and appropriate learning for all learners.

2.02 Plans should adhere to the following principles:

- providing high quality educational experiences and outcomes for all learners;
- ensuring equality and diversity;
- optimising the use of resources through models of collaboration and sharing;
- ensuring operational cost effectiveness and efficiencies;
- ensuring provision is affordable and sustainable; and
- promoting the delivery and development of Welsh-medium provision.

2.03 Plans should clearly fit with the Local Authorities policies for Post-16 education in regard to Welsh Baccalaureate developments and vocational provision. Local Authorities should also ensure that planned learner numbers are realistic and achievable, reflecting learner need and not perceived financial advantage.

2.04 The plans are required to support all learners in the area. They should be developed in collaboration with all local providers, in order to ensure a holistic and clear understanding of what is available to learners and to help avoid duplication, especially for vocational provision.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The Planning Framework is centred on improving the information flow between Local Authorities, Further Education Institutions and DfES in order to provide commissioners with a greater understanding of post 16 educational provision and how it is adding value across Wales.

3.02 The planning cycle can be broken down into six stages as detailed in Appendix 1. Although the process has been standardised to promote a consistent approach between Local Authorities and Further Education Institutions, it is acknowledged that these two sectors are different and therefore our approach varies slightly and has been tailored to reflect the different planning and delivery circumstances.

3.03 The Provisional Plan for 2015-16 will be prepared and submitted by 14 November 2014. DfES will analyse the plans and provide feedback to Local Authorities during December 2014 and January 2015 prior to the issuing of final funding allocations. Local Authorities will be expected to consider the feedback from the provisional plans when developing the final plans for submission.

3.04 The Ministerial Priorities for Local Authorities 2015-16 letter was issued on 30 May 2014. This triggers the start of the new planning cycle for 2015-16. The Priorities for Local Authorities for 2015/16 can be summarised as follows:

- Priority 1 – Tackling Poverty
- Priority 2 – Literacy and Numeracy
- Priority 3 – Learner Support and Progression
- Priority 4 – Developing Welsh-medium Provision
- Priority 5 – Developing more collaboration between post 16 providers

3.05 Our plan must be influenced by local institutional recruitment, retention and outcome information, together with wider commissioning information such as local and regional Labour Market Intelligence. We will focus on the following headings:

- **Priority 1 - Tackling Poverty:** reducing the number of NEETS aged 16-19 is a shared national and local priority through the Youth Engagement and Progression Strategy. We provide targeted support for learners from deprived backgrounds based upon need and identified through casework and performance data. We work with key stakeholders to ensure that arrangements are in place for those learners identified at risk of

disengagement. The role of Engagement and Progression Coordinator is important in coordinating with Careers Wales, Youth Services and all post 16 providers.

- **Priority 2 – Improving Learner Outcomes, including Literacy and Numeracy:** there is a key national priority for raising the levels of learners' literacy and numeracy skills. Flintshire's data is comparatively positive in securing positive outcomes at GCSE for English/ Welsh First language and Mathematics. The plan must specifically describe how we will continue to support learners who did not achieve GCSE grades A*- C in English, Welsh first language and Mathematics at age 16. It must also set out how we monitor the performance of learners during their post 16 studies to ensure they have sufficient standard of literacy and numeracy skills to enable progression in future. Flintshire's providers are also comparatively positive at gaining passes at A level. The outcomes in securing higher grade outcomes at A level are not so positive across the local system. Improving this position should also continue to remain a local priority (linked to priority 3).
- **Priority 3 – Learner Support and Progression:** the introduction of the national post 16 Planning and Funding Framework aims to ensure that all learners are given the opportunity to study a structured programme of learning. This section will set out our progress and further actions to maximise progression routes to higher level education, training and employment. The aim here is to help overcome the negative impact of social and economic deprivation on education and training; and provide the necessary support to enable all learners to complete their studies. This section will describe how we record learner progression for post 16 Learning Programmes; and ensure that there is no unwarranted duplication of vocational provision for learners in school sixth forms and those who decide to study at a further Education institution. The Local Authority is expected to set out how Labour Market Intelligence (LMI) is used to influence and plan post 16 provision in the area. This section must also cover policy is on the delivery of the Welsh Baccalaureate for post 16 learners and how take up of the new Welsh Baccalaureate will be encouraged and monitored. This section will also set out how the Local Authority ensures that suitable provision is in place for post 16 learners with additional learning needs, including data sharing and joint working arrangements to ensure effective school to college transition for learners with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities. This section must also provide a summary of how the Local Authority supports learners in accessing impartial careers' advice and guidance and the process in place to monitor post 16 performance especially in in respect of learner completion, "drop out" rates and learner achievements at A levels (especially grades A*- C).

- **Priority 4 – Developing Welsh-medium Provision:** The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) is expected to assess demand for Welsh Medium Education and set out plans to increase the availability and take-up of Welsh-medium/bilingual learning. This includes continuing to develop learners' skills in the Welsh Language at post 16 level. The commissioning plan for post 16 education must cross refer to the WESP.
- **Priority 5 – Collaboration Between Providers:** This section will describe how the Local Authority, school sixth forms and Further Education Institutions collaborate to address identified issues, avoid duplication of provision and share resources and best practice. It will also set out how the Local Authority is working in partnership with the Regional Consortium for the benefit of learners' at post-16 level. The goal must be to ensure that all learners are provided with appropriate advice and enabled to access programmes that best prepare them for life and work. In order for this section to be accepted by the Welsh Government planned provision should not duplicate already programmes already offered locally.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 Councillors are encouraged to receive a further report in November setting out commissioning plans for 2015-16.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 Successful completion of the Provisional Plan for 2015-16 will enable confirmation of funding allocations in early 2015.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 There are no anti-poverty implications arising directly from this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 There are no environmental impact implications arising directly from this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 There are no equalities impact implications arising directly from this report.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 There are no personnel implications arising directly from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 None at this stage. Commissioning plans will be developed in consultation with all local providers and appropriately involve learners and key stakeholders, such as LSB partners.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 None at this stage.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: The Commissioning & Planning Cycle

Appendix 2: Learner Outcome Data –Retention Rates (2009 to 2013)

Appendix 3: Learner Outcome Data – School A Level Data

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

None.

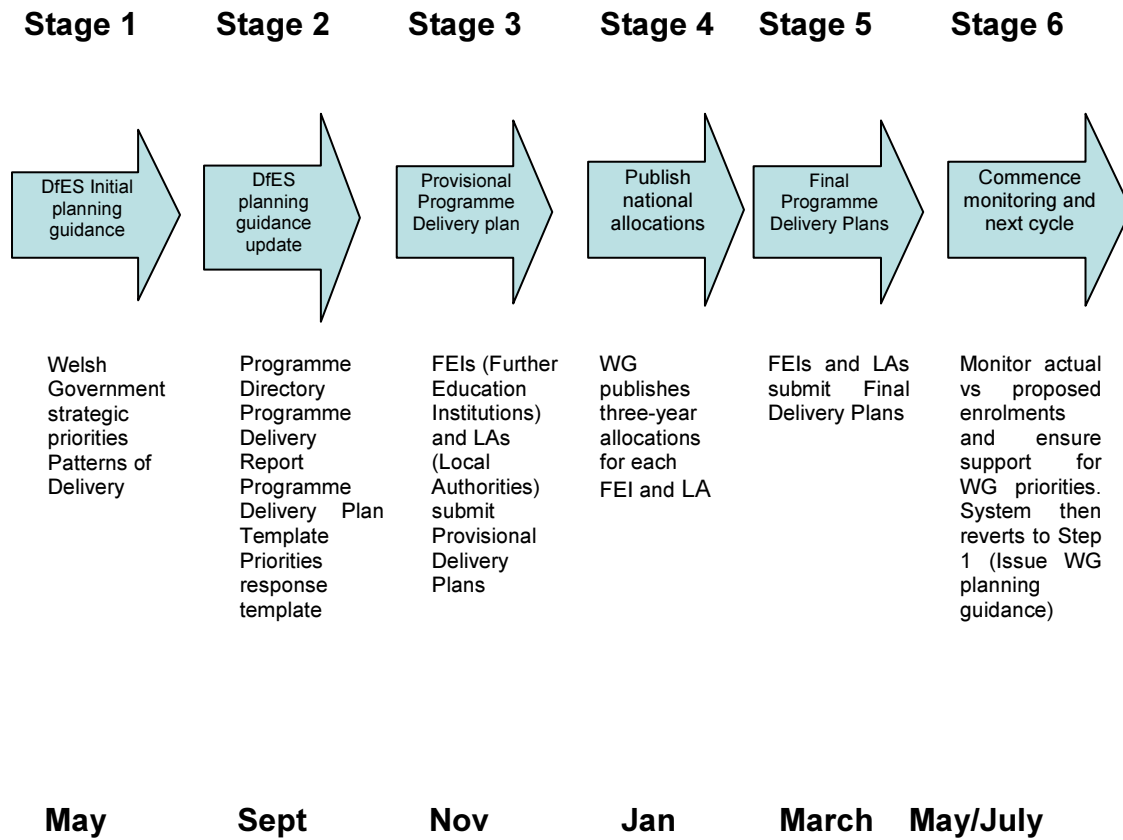
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Appendix 1: Commissioning and Planning Cycle



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RETENTION RATES (2009 to 2013)

NCY 11 - 12 RETENTION RATES (%)		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
4000	Hawarden High School	59.1	49.2	64.6	64.2	59.0
4006	Mold (Alun High School)	121.4	143.2	116.5	115.3	96.8
4011	Buckley (Elfed High School)	50.7	37.7	47.5	37.7	31.1
4012	Holywell High School	43.8	49.6	37.9	40.8	32.0
4013	Saltney (St.David's High School)	39.1	49.4	49.0	49.1	46.2
4017	Hope (Castell Alun High School)	57.1	64.1	70.9	75.6	82.5
4018	Mold (Ysgol Maes Garmon)	45.9	52.3	58.6	70.3	69.6
4019	Deeside (John Summers High School)	29.4	29.3	38.2	39.0	43.1
4021	Flint High School	37.5	38.1	37.6	36.1	32.5
4022	Connah's Quay High School	36.4	28.0	44.0	54.7	40.8
4042	Mynydd Isa (Argoed High School)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4600	Flint (St.Richard Gwyn R.C. High School)	44.5	42.9	46.8	43.2	35.1
TOTAL		52.6	55.4	56.7	57.9	52.7

NCY 12 - 13 RETENTION RATES (%)		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
4000	Hawarden High School	76.2	86.5	94.3	77.4	92.0
4006	Mold (Alun High School)	60.7	62.8	60.3	74.2	69.2
4011	Buckley (Elfed High School)	48.7	59.7	75.0	52.6	61.8
4012	Holywell High School	66.7	49.2	69.8	70.2	65.3
4013	Saltney (St.David's High School)	60.0	75.6	47.7	54.9	78.2
4017	Hope (Castell Alun High School)	79.2	78.6	88.0	86.3	89.2
4018	Mold (Ysgol Maes Garmon)	83.8	72.5	80.0	80.4	73.4
4019	Deeside (John Summers High School)	106.3	86.7	58.3	73.5	86.7
4021	Flint High School	68.0	75.6	80.0	58.5	79.5
4022	Connah's Quay High School	60.3	69.0	60.8	53.8	54.1
4042	Mynydd Isa (Argoed High School)					
4600	Flint (St.Richard Gwyn R.C. High School)	69.9	74.0	81.4	80.8	76.2
TOTAL		66.7	69.9	71.3	71.9	75.0

NCY 11 Numbers on Roll as per Jan PLASC		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
4000	Hawarden High School	176	179	178	176	183	191
4006	Mold (Alun High School)	248	241	243	242	248	247
4011	Buckley (Elfed High School)	142	138	120	146	122	100
4012	Holywell High School	144	127	124	120	125	114
4013	Saltney (St.David's High School)	115	89	104	112	117	111
4017	Hope (Castell Alun High School)	205	195	175	209	206	205
4018	Mold (Ysgol Maes Garmon)	111	86	87	91	79	109
4019	Deeside (John Summers High School)	102	82	89	77	72	71
4021	Flint High School	120	118	141	108	120	102
4022	Connah's Quay High School	195	182	182	179	169	202
4042	Mynydd Isa (Argoed High School)	125	118	109	126	108	116
4600	Flint (St.Richard Gwyn R.C. High School)	173	163	156	146	154	168
TOTAL		1,856	1,718	1,708	1,732	1,703	1,736

NCY 12 Numbers on Roll as per Jan PLASC		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
4000	Hawarden High School	105	104	88	115	113	108
4006	Mold (Alun High School)	333	301	345	283	279	240
4011	Buckley (Elfed High School)	76	72	52	57	55	38
4012	Holywell High School	60	63	63	47	49	40
4013	Saltney (St.David's High School)	40	45	44	51	55	54
4017	Hope (Castell Alun High School)	125	117	125	124	158	170
4018	Mold (Ysgol Maes Garmon)	37	51	45	51	64	55
4019	Deeside (John Summers High School)	16	30	24	34	30	31
4021	Flint High School	25	45	45	53	39	39
4022	Connah's Quay High School	63	71	51	80	98	69
4042	Mynydd Isa (Argoed High School)	0	0	0	0	0	0
4600	Flint (St.Richard Gwyn R.C. High School)	73	77	70	73	63	54
TOTAL		953	976	952	968	1,003	898

NCY 13 Numbers on Roll as per Jan PLASC		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
4000	Hawarden High School	93	80	90	83	89	104
4006	Mold (Alun High School)	194	202	189	208	210	193
4011	Buckley (Elfed High School)	51	37	43	39	30	34
4012	Holywell High School	48	40	31	44	33	32
4013	Saltney (St.David's High School)	13	24	34	21	28	43
4017	Hope (Castell Alun High School)	90	99	92	110	107	141
4018	Mold (Ysgol Maes Garmon)	42	31	37	36	41	47
4019	Deeside (John Summers High School)	28	17	26	14	25	26
4021	Flint High School	23	17	34	36	31	31
4022	Connah's Quay High School	44	38	49	31	43	53
4042	Mynydd Isa (Argoed High School)	0	0	0	0	0	0
4600	Flint (St.Richard Gwyn R.C. High School)	42	51	57	57	59	48
TOTAL		668	636	682	679	696	752

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School Name	Gender	Subject, AOL or Key Indicator	Level	School Results							School Cohort				
				2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
Hawarden High School	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average	626.1	985.9	965.8	831.8	761.4	78	85	77	92	83		
Hawarden High School	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved	100.0	97.5	98.5	100.0	92.5	70	79	68	77	67		
Alun School	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average	642.0	675.4	769.7	658.3	680.2	222	197	229	193	199		
Alun School	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved	96.8	97.0	97.4	99.4	98.9	186	167	189	158	178		
Elfed High School	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average	599.9	623.2	778.3	483.9	647.7	41	46	36	43	27		
Elfed High School	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved	97.1	100.0	100.0	90.0	86.4	35	39	35	30	22		
Holywell High School	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average	459.2	657.7	677.2	497.7	497.3	44	28	37	32	30		
Holywell High School	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved	100.0	86.4	87.1	100.0	100.0	24	22	31	19	23		
Deeside Consortium	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average	0.0	459.7	695.0	563.4	754.8	75	126	85	134	131		
Deeside Consortium	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved	97.4	97.4	93.0	90.9	91.1	77	77	57	88	112		
Castell Alun High School	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average	819.8	820.0	1,150.5	1,009.0	949.0	98	90	102	98	139		
Castell Alun High School	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved	98.0	96.6	98.0	99.0	99.3	98	89	99	97	135		
Ysgol Maes Garmon	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average	698.9	580.8	750.7	826.4	758.8	30	36	36	40	51		
Ysgol Maes Garmon	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved	96.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	97.4	28	26	28	32	39		
St Richard Gwyn CHS	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average	623.5	649.5	827.9	696.5	965.8	55	57	55	57	43		
St Richard Gwyn CHS	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved	94.2	94.7	96.3	96.4	97.8	52	57	54	55	45		

Flintshire	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average	615.4	669.8	816.9	699.5	750.1	668	678	677	697	723
Flintshire	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved	96.0	96.8	96.8	97.3	96.3	555	556	561	556	621

Wales	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average	687.7	747.9	798.9	772.9	806.6	13,241	13,586	13,615	13,632	13,365
Wales	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved	96.0	94.9	96.3	96.9	96.5	11,367	11,653	11,512	11,538	11,706

Deeside College	All Pupils	Average Wider Points Score	Average				534.0	759.5				64	48
Deeside College	All Pupils	Level 3 threshold	Achieved				100.0	100.0				64	48

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **THURSDAY, 19 JUNE 2014**

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

SUBJECT: **EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT & MODERNISATION STRATEGY**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.00 BACKGROUND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.05

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

2.06

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

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

2.07

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

2.08

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

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01

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

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

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

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

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

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

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None within the receipt of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

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

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

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

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

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

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 The process identified in 10.01 has been initiated

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix A - Education Improvement & Modernisation Strategy

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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Email: kevin.grandfield@flintshire.gov.uk



Flintshire County Council
Education Improvement and Modernisation
Strategy
2014-5

Flintshire County Council Education Improvement and Modernisation Strategy
2014-15

Flintshire County Council's Education Improvement and Modernisation Strategy is a process designed to give direction to the development of authority and regional support for schools and collaborative working between schools in all phases.

The actions contained in this Strategy contribute to the priorities identified in the Flintshire County Council Improvement Plan. In particular, the Strategy underpins the County Council Priority for Skills and Learning, specifically "Modernised and High Performing Education", improving standards and learner outcomes and "Apprenticeships and Training" to meet the skills and employment needs of local employers as identified in the Council Improvement Plan.

In the Education and Youth Portfolio we aim to work with partners in neighbouring Local Authorities, Regional Services (in particular the Regional Service for School Improvement (GwE)), and Learning Settings to:

- Achieve better learning outcomes, and wellbeing for all children and young people regardless of their socio economic background;
- Improve and reduce variation in learning outcomes within and between classrooms and schools
- Support and develop the national priorities of:
 - a. Improving literacy levels;
 - b. Improving numeracy levels; and
 - c. Reducing the impact of poverty on educational attainment
- Make better use of education resources through reducing surplus places and improving learning environments.

The Strategy documents are produced by the Education Improvement and Modernisation Strategy Planning Group (EIMSPG) and whilst the Strategy development process is ongoing, Strategy documents are monitored and reviewed monthly and re-written each year. This Strategy replaces the previous "Strategy" documents for the Primary and Secondary Phases, Development and Resources, ICT and Inclusion Services.

Arrangements for securing school improvement are to be found in LA School Partnership Agreements and the Service Level Agreement with GwE. 2014-15 will be a transitional year for GwE as they take on additional responsibilities as defined by the National Model for Regional School Improvement Services.

Strategy Documents – Priority for Planning

The Education Improvement and Modernisation Strategy 2014-15 has been produced following the identification of ongoing developments from previous Strategy Documents (School Improvement and Development and Resources), Estyn Inspection Reports, Local Service Board Single Integrated Plan, Council Plans, national and local priorities.

In 2014-15 the Strategy Group has identified the following as the key areas for planning across all phases:

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

Monitoring of the Action Plans

Monitoring, reporting and reviewing of the Education Improvement and Modernisation Strategy will be undertaken by the Education Improvement and Modernisation Strategy Planning Group. Meetings of the group will be held each month and the responsibility for reporting to the group on the status of the activity rests with the group member who has responsibility for each Action Plans.

Education Improvement and Modernisation Planning Group Membership (EIMSPG)

LB – Lesley Bayley
 KB – Kim Brookes
 IB – Ian Budd
 JD – Jenny Dobson
 KG – Kevin Grandfield
 CH – Claire Homard
 DM – David Messum
 AR - Ann Roberts
 JR - Jeanette Rock
 PV – Paula Vogt
 GY – Gill Yates

Targets and Outcomes

Targets and outcomes are identified in Corporate Plans and through the annual process of Target Setting undertaken by the LA with schools. Targets agreed with schools are aggregated to produce a target for the LA. Targets for 2016 are subject to change.

Key targets and outcomes for the LA include:

Target/Outcome	2013 Target	2013 Outcome	2014 Target	2015 Target	2016 Target
Reduce % of learners leaving education without a recognised qualification	0.2%	0.7%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Percentage of learners achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS4	62.3%	59.0%	65.5%	68.8%	70.1%
Percentage of learners achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS3	77.2%	80.0%	82.0%	86.5%	87.9%
Percentage of learners achieving the Core Subject Indicator at KS2	81.7%	85.0%	86.2%	87.0%	88.1%
Percentage of learners achieving the Foundation Phase Indicator (FPI)	84.6%	84.4%	85.2%	85.2%	85.2%
Percentage of learners achieving the Level 1 Threshold	96.7%	94.3%	96.8%	97.1%	97.2%
Percentage of learners achieving the Level 2 Threshold	75.4%	79.6%	81.4%	86.3%	87.5%
Percentage of learners achieving Level 2 Threshold inclusive of Mathematics and English or Welsh 1 st Language	62.8%	62.2%	66.2%	69.9%	71.3%
Improve performance of cohort of learners entitled to FSM to reduce gap in performance of FSM and non-FSM learners	Level 1 – 93.8% Level 2+ - 48.0% CPS – 319.3 KS3 CSI – 60.2%	Level 1 – 91.2% Level 2+ - 35.7% CPS – 293.0 KS3 CSI – 58.2%	Level 1 – 94.6% Level 2+ - 51.5% CPS – 323.9 KS3 CSI – 67.4%	Level 1 – 95.8% Level 2+ - 61.3% CPS – 330.9 KS3 CSI – 73.8%	Level 1 – 96.5% Level 2+ - 61.4% CPS – 330.3 KS3 CSI – 77.9%
Improve outcomes achieved by boys for CSI at each Key Stage (Level 2 Threshold inc English/Welsh & Mathematics at Key Stage 4)	KS4 – 61.0% KS3 – 75.0% KS2 – 78.1% FPI – 80.6%	KS4 – 56.9% KS3 – 75.4% KS2 – 83.0% FPI – 78.9%	KS4 – 64.2% KS3 – 80.3% KS2 – 82.6% FPI – 80.8%	KS4 – 66.8% KS3 – 84.2% KS2 – 83.4% FPI – 80.8%	KS4 – 68.5% KS3 – 86.1% KS2 – 84.1% FPI – 80.8%
Improve outcomes in Mathematics *	KS4 – 71.5%	KS4 – 68.5%	KS4 – 72.4%	KS4 – 75.5%	KS4 – 76.9%

	KS3 – 85.1% KS2 – 86.0% FPI – 88.7%	KS3 – 86.5% KS2 – 88.2% FPI – 89.0%	KS3 – 87.3% KS2 – 90.0% FPI – 89.0%	KS3 – 90.9% KS2 – 92.0% FPI – 89.0%	KS3 – 92.1% KS2 – 92.0% FPI – 89.0%
Improve outcomes English *	KS4 – 75.1% KS3 – 84.7% KS2 – 85.4% FPI – 88.3%	KS4 – 72.7% KS3 – 85.8% KS2 – 88.0% FPI – 87.3%	KS4 – 75.0% KS3 – 86.8% KS2 – 89.0% FPI – 87.6%	KS4 – 77.4% KS3 – 90.5% KS2 – 90.0% FPI – 87.6%	KS4 – 78.2% KS3 – 91.7% KS2 – 90.0% FPI – 87.6%
Improve outcomes in Welsh first language *	KS4 – 73% KS3 – 80% KS2 – 86.5% FPI – 81.0%	KS4 – 71.3% KS3 – 67.7% KS2 – 90.1% FPI – 84.4%	KS4 – 73.0% KS3 – 80.0% KS2 – 89.0% FPI – 85.4%	KS4 – 74.7% KS3 – 87.0% KS2 – 85.0% FPI – 85.4%	KS4 – 74.3% KS3 – 89.0% KS2 – 93.0% FPI – 85.4%
Average Wider Points Score (AWPS)	496	526.7	542.2	558.5	562.5
Improvement of outcomes in Capped Wider Points score, including increasing the proportion of A* and A grades.	339.5	337.1	351.0	358.9	362.0
The rate (per 1000 learners) of incidents of fixed term exclusions of five days or less during the academic year in secondary schools	N/A	53.3	50.0% -	50.0% -	50.0% -
The rate (per 1000 learners) of incidents of fixed term exclusions of six days or more during the academic year in secondary schools	N/A	4.7	4.0% -	4.0% -	4.0% -
The average number of days lost from school per fixed term exclusion of five days or less in all schools	N/A	2.1	2.0% -	2.0% -	2.0% -
The average number of days lost from school per fixed term exclusion of six days or more in all schools	N/A	10.7	9.7% -	9.7% -	9.7% -
The percentage of final statements of special educational need issued within 26 weeks, including exceptions	NA	90.8%	90%+	90%+	90%+
The percentage of final statements of special educational need issued within 26 weeks, excluding exceptions	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Reduce % of learners in Local Authority Care leaving education without a recognised qualification	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
The % of looked after children eligible for assessment at the end of KS2 achieving the Core Subject Indicator, as determined by Teacher Assessment.	35%	33%	50%	13%	67%
The % of looked after children eligible for assessment at the end of KS3 achieving the Core Subject Indicator, as determined by	60%	50%	42%	45.5%	20%

Teacher Assessment.					
The average external qualifications points score for 16 year old looked after children, in any Local Authority maintained learning setting.	186	199	192	199	199
The percentage of Looked After Children (at 31 st March) who have experienced one or more changes of school, which were not due to transitional arrangements.	N/A	10.6%	10.0% -	10.0% -	10.0% -
Decrease the number of learners aged 16 who are NEET (Yr 11)	2.2%	3.6%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%
Continuing the drive to further improve learner attendance in primary schools.	94.6%	94.1%	94.8%	94.9%	95.0%
Continuing the drive to further improve learner attendance in secondary schools.	93.3%	93.3%	93.7%	94.3%	94.5%
Reduce the percentage of surplus places (Primary) (Welsh Government aspiration)	NA	16.31%	15.42%	15.96%	15.29%
Reduce the percentage of surplus places (Secondary) (Welsh Government aspiration)	NA	17.37%	17.40%	17.10%	16.29%
Percentage of schools inspected during the academic year graded as good or excellent by Estyn for current performance or prospects for improvement	NA	92.8%	80% or better	80% or better	80% or better

* KS4 – achieving A*-C at GCSE, KS3 – achieving Level 5 or above, KS2 – achieving Level 4 or above

Education Services Action Plan

Plan 1

Area for Improvement: Improving skills in literacy and numeracy		
Planned Outcome (what do we want to achieve): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised standards in oracy, reading and writing (English and Welsh 1st Language) and Numeracy across the curriculum. • Improved application of literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum • Complete the NSP training programme to develop teachers' skills in supporting the improvement of numeracy and literacy outcomes • Schools that need additional support in developing literacy and Numeracy programmes receive this from Associate Partners 	SMART Target : Aggregated Flintshire outcomes in Literacy/English/Welsh 1st Language and Numeracy/Mathematics place the LA above sixth position in Wales in for all assessments in 2014 and 2015.	
Responsibility (EIMSPG member): CH, JR, KG	Lead Officer(s): JR, CH, KG, Siwan Meirion, Janice Dickens	
WHAT (we will do):	WHO (will do it):	WHEN (it will be done):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete delivery of NSP training to all schools and PPRU through NSP Partners 2. Provide updates for LA staff on Literacy and Numeracy Framework developments in schools 3. Reserve retained School Effectiveness Grant (SEG) funding to support the programme of Associate Partners to work with schools most in need of support in developing and improving their Literacy and Numeracy programmes 4. Through working with Officers from the Regional Team, ensure that schools needing additional support in developing Literacy and Numeracy programmes receive this from Associate Partners 5. Provide training in "catch up" for those schools indicating need 6. Respond to outcomes of Literacy and Numeracy audits of all schools and outcomes of national tests to target remaining SEG retained funding at resources/training for identified areas of need 7. Effective monitoring of school plans for use of delegated funding to support national priorities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NSP Partners organised by Siwan Meirion (GwE) 2. Siwan Meirion, System Leaders 3. KG, Janice Dickens 4. CH, JR, KG, Siwan Meirion 5. GwE 6. KG, CH, JR, Janice Dickens, Siwan Meirion 7. Janice Dickens, GwE 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Summer term 2015 2. Ongoing 3. April 2014 4. Ongoing 5. Ongoing 6. By September 2014 7. Plans agreed by June 2014
RESOURCES: Officer time. Retained SEG funding to support intervention programmes operated by Associate Partners and focused activities aimed at training and support for schools with greatest identified needs.		
RISKS: Programme is delivered for Flintshire by Regional Teams and not directly by Flintshire officers. Capacity to deliver is limited by extent of retained SEG funding available		

Education Services Action Plan

Plan 2

Area for Improvement:: Reducing the impact of poverty and disadvantage (including the impact on Looked After Children)		
Planned Outcome (what do we want to achieve):	SMART Target :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More young people reach their full potential, despite poverty and disadvantage, as demonstrated by outcomes achieved by group of learners entitled to FSM, reducing the gap between the outcomes they achieve and those achieved by the whole cohort • Outcomes achieved by learners who are in the care of the Local Authority (LAC) are in line with expectations based on their individual potential • Achievement of national performance indicators associated with Flying Start and Families First Programmes 	Improve performance by cohort of learners entitled to FSM in 2015 to: Level 1 – 95.8%, Level 2+ - 61.3%, CPS – 330.9 & KS3 CSI – 73.8% Attainment of all learners who are in the care of the Local Authority (LAC) to be in line with expectations based on their individual potential and profile in 2015.	
Responsibility (EIMSPG member): JR, AR	Lead Officer(s): Janice Dickens, DM, JR, AR	
WHAT (we will do):	WHO (will do it):	WHEN (it will be done):
1. Effective monitoring of content of school SEG / PDG (Pupil Deprivation Grant) plans for use of delegated funding to support national priorities 2. Identification and sharing of best practice of use of delegated SEG / PDG funding by schools 3. Establish a multi-agency steering group, (Education, Social Services & Health) to oversee and direct the use of the identified funding for LAC, e.g. SEG, ensuring the funding is targeted at supporting improved outcomes for learners who are LAC 4. Develop the training directory to extend the opportunities for schools to access support and advice on effective mechanisms to reduce the impact of poverty and deprivation. 5. Revise and circulate the Corporate Parenting Strategy to ensure all stakeholders are clear regarding their roles and responsibilities in securing positive outcomes for learners who are LAC 6. Further develop the recording and tracking systems between education and social services , including each learner’s Personal Education Plan (PEP), to facilitate the identification of appropriate support and also levels of challenge to learners who are LAC 7. Flying Start and Families First early intervention whole family programmes are established and embedded to support the key aims of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working age people in low income families gain, and progress within, employment • Children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, achieve their full potential 	1. Janice Dickens 2. Janice Dickens 3. DM, Peter Robson 4. DM 5. JR, Peter Robson 6. JR, Peter Robson, Jenny Dobson 7. AR, CH	1. Summer Term 2014 2. Summer Term 2014 3. By August 2014 4. By October 2014 5. By August 2014 6. By April 2015 7. Programme currently in place until 31.03.15 with potential extended funding until 2020. TBC in 2015
RESOURCES: Officer time. Grant funding.		
RISKS: Everything is reliant on short term grant funding. SEG/PDG is identified as a regional grant, with future monitoring to be done by GwE. Compatibility between data recording systems in Social Services and Lifelong Learning.		

Education Services Action Plan

Plan 3

Area for Improvement: Sharing best teaching practice and resources across schools and the region		
Planned Outcome (what do we want to achieve): Systems work effectively to enable good practice to be replicated across Flintshire learning settings, and to be shared regionally by GwE.	SMART Target : All schools to be recognised as making good progress in developing appropriate curriculum practices in GwE termly visits.	
Responsibility (EIMSPG member): KG, CH, JR	Lead Officer(s): KG, CH, JR, Ashley Jones, Siwan Meirion, Alison Butler, Jenny Dobson	
WHAT (we will do):	WHO (will do it):	WHEN (it will be done):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify Convenors for Secondary subject forums from school staff. Arrange dates and venues with Convenors. 2. Establish forums for Literacy and Numeracy Coordinators 3. Work with GwE Systems Leaders to identify school to school support individually and sharing good practice across the LA/region (see Plan 9) 4. Continue development of Foundation phase partnerships 5. Explore the potential for Forums for Key Stage 2 teachers 6. Identification of priority data sets needed for LA and regional use. Contribute to discussion on development of regional structure of data support. Refine data set to support interrogated by phase, school. 7. Include training on areas of good practice within a programme for NQTs 8. Mentoring support programme for selected Primary Headteachers. 9. Organise Secondary Lead Practitioner group, with support from GwE, to bring together excellent practitioners to work in a PLC, with accreditation for participants through SSAT Lead Practitioner Accreditation. 10. Work with Primary and Secondary practitioners in Flintshire schools to develop alternative / modified Curriculum models which support maintenance of learner engagement in schools. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. KG, Ashley Jones 2. GwE, Siwan Meirion 3. KG, CH JR, Ashley Jones (GwE) 4. CH, Alison Butler 5. CH, Ashley Jones 6. EIMS Group, SMIT 7. KB, KG, CH, JR, Helen Crich 8. CH, Siwan Meirion 9. Secondary Heads, GwE, KG 10. Inclusion Service, JR, DM, CH 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forums in Autumn and Spring Terms 2014-15 2. Forums in Autumn and Spring Terms 2014-15 3. Ongoing 4. Ongoing 5. Autumn Term 2014 6. Identification of Priorities – May 2014 7. Ongoing 8. Summer Term 2014 9. Commence Autumn Term 2014 10. Ongoing
RESOURCES: Officer time. Grant funding, including for NQT processes. Funding from schools.		
RISKS: Limited Officer time available. Schools ability to release staff. Reliance on grant funding.		

Area for Improvement: Improving the preparation of young people for the work place		
Planned Outcome (what do we want to achieve):	SMART Target :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in the number of learners aged 16 who are NEET Enhancing learners' readiness for employment by integrating Work Focused Education (WFE) more effectively as a theme across the curriculum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in 16 Year old NEETS to 2.0% or less. PASS survey outcomes improved in "General Work Ethic" & "Confidence in Learning" 	
Responsibility (EIMSPG member): KG, AR	Lead Officer(s): KG, JR, DM, AR, John Davies, Paul Corner (PC)	
WHAT (we will do):	WHO (will do it):	WHEN (it will be done):
<p>1. Liaise with 14-19 Network to make best use of Network support for projects designed to reduce the number of learners not engaging with education or training. Namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Support Programme in Inclusion Service to re-introduce those already disengaged and in danger of becoming NEET A programme of skills development for 14-16 year old learners who have disengaged from mainstream schools, delivered at Coleg Cambria A pilot programme of activities designed to engage, build confidence, fitness, self discipline and motivation to work effectively in a team, targeting young people identified as likely to disengage from learning in school, aiming to ensure they maintain their school place and make the best of the learning opportunities provided. <p>2. Implementation of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework ensuring systems are in place to work with partners to support the key outcomes and the Youth Guarantee.</p> <p>3. Increasing youth engagement opportunities, support, participation and routes to progression, Identifying young people most at risk of disengagement by :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better brokerage and co-ordination of support Stronger tracking and transitions of young people through the system Ensuring provision meets the needs of young people Strengthening employability skills and opportunities for employment Greater accountability for better outcomes for young people. <p>4. Complete audit of current curriculum elements and activities for WFE across Flintshire Secondary Schools. Gather best practice from other providers, Careers Wales, etc.</p> <p>5. Define and agree a sustainable curriculum plan for WFE, which integrates activities into the curriculum. Identify range of learning activities for use in schools.</p> <p>6. Share outcomes of work with Headteachers, Curriculum Leaders and Subject Forums</p> <p>7. Create bank of learning activities and list of supporting agencies and companies within an interactive Moodle site.</p>	<p>1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion Service (JR/DM) Inclusion Service and Coleg Cambria (DM, John Davies) Inclusion Service, Schools and North Wales Training (DM. John Davies) <p>2. DM, Employment & Apprenticeships Board (PC)</p> <p>3. Families First and Youth Services (AR)</p> <p>4. Argoed & Connah's Quay High Schools</p> <p>5. Argoed & Connah's Quay High Schools</p> <p>6. Argoed & Connah's Quay High Schools</p> <p>7. Argoed & Connah's Quay High Schools & Jacque McHarrie</p>	<p>1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing project From September 2014 Learners identified summer term 2014, programme commence September 2014 <p>2. Framework by September 2014</p> <p>3. Effective within the National Youth Work Strategy 2014 – 2018 The Youth Engagement and Progression Plan 2014 - 2016 Families First Plan 2011 – 2015 (with possible extended funding to 2020).</p> <p>4. June 2014</p> <p>5. Initially Summer Term 2014, then ongoing</p> <p>6. Initially Autumn Term 2014, then ongoing</p> <p>7. Initially Autumn Term 2014, then ongoing</p>
RESOURCES: Financial support from 14-19 Network Grant. Officer time to coordinate activities. Ongoing support from Argoed and Connah's Quay High schools. Time in meetings.		
RISKS: Potential changes to future years criteria for 14-19 spend. Not all schools buy in to WFE developments. Cost implications for schools, although these are minimised by the philosophy. Limited resource in LA to coordinate activities. Capacity of partnerships to deliver outcomes.		

Education Services Action Plan

Plan 5

Area for Improvement: Continuing the implementation of 21st Century Schools programme		
Planned Outcome (what do we want to achieve): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining progress to project milestones for Holywell, John Summers and Post 16 projects Plan implementation of agreed actions to reduce surplus places in secondary schools 	SMART Target : All projects completed for new buildings to be populated by September 2016	
Responsibility (EIMSPG member): GY, PV	Lead Officer(s): Ian Budd(IB)	
WHAT (we will do):	WHO (will do it):	WHEN (it will be done):
1. Appoint Programme Coordinator	1. IB	1. July 2014
2. Implement Gateway review recommendations	2. Programme Coordinator	2. Sept 2014
3. Further develop the Programme Plan	3. Programme Coordinator	3. Sept 2014
4. Further development of governance and curriculum planning for Post 16 provision	4. IB/KG, Programme Coordinator	4. Ongoing
5. Review of post 16 transport policy	5. GY	5. Dec 2014
6. Appointment of Constructor(s)	6. Ian Edwards/PV	6. June 2014
7. Completion by consultants (CPC) of Full Business Case(s) for: Holywell and Post 16 Hub John Summers	7. IB/CPC, PV, S Jackson (Coleg Cambria), Programme Coordinator IB/CPC, PV, Programme Coordinator	7. Nov 2014 Feb 2015
RESOURCES: Staff time, new posts of Programme Coordinator/Project Managers		
RISKS: Further delay in agreement to Statutory Notices from Welsh Government Delay in appointment of Programme Coordinator Risk of delays due to inability of Constructors to deliver Delay in approving FBC by Welsh Government Real costs not known until agreed maximum price identify with Constructor. May not be achievable within budget.		

Area for Improvement:; Continuing to implement the School Modernisation Strategy including review of assets and Primary and Secondary School Organisation		
Planned Outcome (what do we want to achieve): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue implementation of the Authority's School Modernisation Strategy Planned rationalisation of assets Planned reduction of surplus places in Primary and Secondary Schools Improving governance and financial resilience in schools All post 16 provision will be subject to the annual planning and review cycle required by the Welsh Government 	SMART Target : Review of primary and secondary school organisation in accordance with School Modernisation principles by March 2015	
Responsibility (EIMSPG member): PV, GY	Lead Officer(s): Ian Budd (IB)	
WHAT (we will do):	WHO (will do it):	WHEN (it will be done):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of roles and responsibilities in Education & Youth as part of Council restructure 2. Complete consultation - Saltney 3. Report outcome of consultation at Saltney to Cabinet Decision by Welsh Ministers 4. Agree plans to reduce capacity of school 5. Identification of resources – capital programme or Welsh Government funding 6. Opening of Ysgol Croes Atti @Glannau Dyfrdwy Sept 2014 7. Review of pupil projections process 8. Refresh current School Modernisation Strategy 9. Carry out annual update of primary and secondary projections 10. Identification of outcomes and implications including impact on Admissions and Transport Policy 11. Identify new areas for review and collate relevant data 12. Evaluation of outcomes at Flint (2015) 13. Implement Youth Services asset review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IB 2. Tom Davies (TD)/CH 3. TD, CH IB 4. TD, PV Lucy Morris 5. CH, PV 6. EIMSPG, SMIT 7. IB, EIMSPG 8. SMIT, EIMSPG 9. EIMSPG 10. Lucy Morris 11. KG 12. TD/AR 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. June 2014 2. July 2014 3. July 2014 Dec 2014 4. June 2014 June 2014 5. Sept 2014 6. July 2014 7. Sept 2014 8. Dec 2014 January 2015 9. February 2015 10. March 2015 11. Autumn 2015 12. Ongoing
RESOURCES: Staff time and capacity		
RISKS: Inability to identify funding, capacity to deliver, delays in political and statutory processes		

Education Services Action Plan

Plan 7

Area for Improvement: Strengthening collaborative work between schools to improve curriculum continuity and facilitate additional delegation of responsibility and resources		
Planned Outcome (what do we want to achieve): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More mature relationships and working practices in ALL consortia • Enhancing curriculum continuity for learners, particularly between KS2 and KS3 • Further identification of responsibilities and resources which may be delegated to Consortia by the LA and the mechanisms for doing so 	SMART Target : All consortia aware of best practice relating to collaborative working and curriculum continuity at KS2 to KS3.	
Responsibility (EIMSPG member): CH, JR, KG	Lead Officer(s): CH, JR, KG, Lucy Morris	
WHAT (we will do):	WHO (will do it):	WHEN (it will be done):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-establish Collaborative Working Steering Group as the forum which guides practice and development in collaborative working and curriculum continuity across the county 2. Liaise with Headteacher Federations to get engagement of school leaders from Primary and Secondary phases 3. Facilitate discussion on curriculum continuity, assessment of effects of learning styles of FP learners, in order to improve learner engagement and enthusiasm and reduce duplication. 4. Research, identify and define best current practice in consortium structure and working models. 5. Identify and plan for additional delegation opportunities, where these would result in more efficient systems in schools/consortium 6. Investigate how we can make all consortiums more "mature" so they can provide effective, collective leadership for the development of local provision for learners. 7. Complete revised strategies for consortium working and traded services. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CH, KG, JR 2. CH, KG, JR 3. Collaborative Working Steering Group 4. Collaborative Working Steering Group 5. Lucy Morris, Service Managers 6. Collaborative Working Steering Group 7. IB, LM, Collaborative Working Steering Group 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July 2014 2. Ongoing 3. Autumn Term 2014 4. Autumn Term 2014 5. Autumn Term 2014 6. Autumn Term 2014 7. December 2014
RESOURCES: Officer and school staff time. Resources to be delegated may be identified.		
RISKS: Inconsistency of working practices between Consortia and the ability of the LA to influence how they work. If not properly planned, we are in danger of delegating funding to schools when they are not ready to work together most efficiently to make best use of the resource. Alternatively, Flintshire may not feel able to delegate sufficient resource to meet WG targets.		

Area for Improvement: Raising standards through effective use of new technologies		
Planned Outcome (what do we want to achieve):	SMART Target :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the implementation of infrastructure and technical solutions for improved wired / mobile access to the internet for teachers and learners suitable for 21st Century teaching and learning in line with Learning in Digital Wales (LiDW) expectations. • Implementation of improved communication links to all centres to support the increased demands for the delivery of digital content and services to support teachers and learners in line with LiDW expectations. • Teachers able to maximise the opportunities offered by Hwb+. • Undertake Education ICT Service Review identifying the immediate and long term ICT support needs of learning settings and consider appropriate delivery model. • To facilitate the sharing of best practice 	<p>All centres are in receipt of and are able to use upgraded wireless and network infrastructures by July 2014</p> <p>All centres are in receipt of upgraded communication links by July 2014</p> <p>All centres to have access to Hwb+ and have undertaken training by December 2014.</p> <p>Complete Education ICT Service Review by October 2014</p> <p>Provision of a central repository of ICT resources to facilitate the sharing of best practice to support learning by November 2014</p>	
Responsibility (EIMSPG member): KG (Aled Griffith/Andy Wood)	Lead Officer(s): AG/AW	
WHAT (we will do):	WHO (will do it):	WHEN (it will be done):
1. Complete the implementation of networking solutions in learning centres ensuring a wide range of devices can be used.	1. AG, Tech Support, Corporate ICT	1. July 2014
2. Improve communication links to all centres providing increased capacity.	2. AG, Tech Support, Corporate ICT	2. July 2014
3. Assist Digital Leaders in providing access to and arranging and supporting teacher training for HWB+	3. AG / AW, Kirsten Bell, Tech support, Learning Possibilities	3. December 2014
4. Complete Education ICT Service review identifying the immediate and long term ICT support needs of centres considering and recommending appropriate delivery mechanisms.	4. AG / AW / External Consultant	4. October 2014
5. Provision of a central repository of ICT resources to facilitate the sharing of best practice to support learning potentially on Moodle.	5. Kirsten Bell / AG / AW , Tech support	5. November 2014
RESOURCES: Learning in Digital Wales revenue grant used to fund communication links. Hwb+ and resources contained within. ICT Service staff and school technicians.		
RISKS: Capacity of ICT Services to meet required targets. Staff not released by centres to engage with training opportunities.		

Area for Improvement: Ensuring best quality educational support during implementation of the national model for regional working		
Planned Outcome (what do we want to achieve): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic – development of new elements of regional services in line with National Model. Best level of support for schools, resulting in further ongoing improvement in learner outcomes 	SMART Target : Continued improvement in learner outcomes, particularly CSI in KS2, KS3 and KS4 and L2 Threshold inc. Maths and English/Welsh in 2014 and 2015.	
Responsibility (EIMSPG member): CH, JR, KG	Lead Officer(s): Chief Officer, CH, JR, KG, Ashley Jones (GwE)	
WHAT (we will do):	WHO (will do it):	WHEN (it will be done):
1. Undertake Perception Survey of Schools' views of Council Services, using questionnaire and focus group meetings with Headteachers. Compare outcomes to similar survey of 2011 and share outcomes with Service Managers and GwE. 2. Maintain membership of Regional groups which monitor development and effectiveness of regional services and guide strategic development at regional and sub-regional level. These include GwE Users Group, School Effectiveness sub Group 3. Develop effective structures for sharing information between Flintshire representatives on regional groups, ensuring views of Flintshire Members and Officers are consistently expressed and supported 4. Ensure effective communication of regional development with School Leaders using Headteacher Federations and meetings 5. Arrange regular meetings with GwE Senior System Leader and Challenge Advisers, to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> schools in difficult circumstances and needing support common issues/themes affecting Flintshire schools in each phase best practice that should be shared across schools 6. Develop data systems to identify trends, risks and gaps in pupil attainment and support effective pupil tracking and target setting processes to improve outcomes for all learners 7. Contribute to discussions on focus of Challenge Adviser visits, ensuring that visits are bespoke to Flintshire schools as well as delivering regional objectives 8. Challenge/commission GwE to provide and coordinate support in schools as required, including school to school support and sharing of best practice	1. Survey design, Focus Group meetings, analysis and sharing outcomes – EIMS Group. Electronic questionnaire – Jacque McHarrie 2. Chief Officer, Cabinet Member, Headteachers, Principal Officers 3. Chief Officer, Cabinet Member, Headteachers, Principal Officers (CH, KG, JR) 4. Chief Officer, Principal Officers 5. Principal Officers, Ashley Jones 6. Principal Officers, SMIT and SIMS 7. Principal Officers, Ashley Jones 8. Principal Officers, Ashley Jones	1. Survey – June/July 2014 Analysis, Focus Groups and sharing outcomes – September/October 2014 2. Ongoing 3. Ongoing 4. Ongoing 5. Ongoing series of half termly meetings 6. Autumn Term 7. Ongoing 8. Ongoing
RESOURCES: Other than Principal Officer time all resources for School Improvement now sit within the Regional Service. This includes a limited budget to commission support not able to be offered by GwE Officers.		
RISKS: Other than Principal Officer time all resources for School Improvement now sit within the Regional Service. This includes a limited budget to commission support not able to be offered by GwE Officers. Current capacity of LA Officers to support schools is very limited, particularly in the Primary Phase.		

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **THURSDAY, 19TH JUNE 2014**

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

SUBJECT: **RECOMMENDATION FROM THE LEISURE FINANCE TASK & FINISH GROUP**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To seek the Committee's approval for a recommendation from the Leisure Finance Task & Finish Group to be supported and recommended to Cabinet for approval.
- 1.02 To inform the Committee of the decision taken by the Leisure Finance Task & Finish Group, that it was inappropriate to continue to review Leisure Services further at this time.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The Leisure Finance Task & Finish Group was set up in October 2013 in order to review and address the current level of overspend within the Leisure Service Budget.
- 2.02 The Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee had also considered setting up a Task & Finish Group to review the Leisure Service Budget. Therefore, the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on the 10 October, 2013, proposed that the Chairman of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee be invited to sit on the Task & Finish Group and report back the work of the Group when necessary.
- 2.03 The Membership of the Task & Finish Group is as follows:-
- Cllr David Mackie (Chairman)
 - Cllr Marion Bateman
 - Cllr Stella Jones
 - Cllr Nancy Matthews
 - Cllr Tim Newhouse

2.04 Meetings of the Task & Finish Group are also attended by the following officers who provide specialist advice:-

- Lawrence Rawsthorne, Head of Culture & Leisure
- Mike Welch, Principal Leisure Services Officer
- Paul Jones, Business Improvement Manger
- Carl Jones, Accountant – Financial Services

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 During the last meeting of the Task & Finish Group held on the 19 May, 2014, the Group considered the objectives as set out within their terms of reference, attached at Appendix A of the report, and made the following comments:-

- **To consider how best to address the current level of overspend within the Leisure Service budget** – The Group commented that it was pleasing to note that the current Leisure Service budget for 2014/15 had been set in line with realistic customer receipts and had been increased to allow for a balanced budget. This action by the Council's Administration was seen to address the first of the Group's terms of reference.
- **To consider the opportunity available to encourage external funding** – The Group commented that the maintenance of receipts from customers depended on facilities being fit for purpose which depended on maintenance funds being made available. The responsibility from securing other external funding must rest with the Cabinet and Chief Officer Team and be an on-going responsibility.
- **To consider how best to prioritise spend within the Leisure Services budget** – The Group recommended that consideration should be given by Cabinet that the capital receipts received from the sale of land at Ysgol Perth y Terfyn Infants and Ysgol y Fron Junior School be ring-fenced for maintenance works for Leisure Centres in Flintshire.

3.02 During discussion around customer numbers, the Group commented that to maintain and improve customer numbers, leisure facilities across Flintshire must be well maintained but raised concerns around the lack of budget for essential maintenance within the Council's Capital Programme. Previous investment has allowed Deeside Leisure Centre and Flint Leisure Centre to be improved, but their future on-going maintenance costs have not been funded. If a budget for maintenance is not allocated eventually income from customers is likely to diminish.

- 3.03 The Group were informed during the last meeting that the Council was currently conducting a review of assets across Flintshire, where the needs of Leisure Centre maintenance would be considered. Following discussion with the Cabinet Member for Waste Strategy, Public Protection and Leisure, the Group felt it would be inappropriate to continue to review Leisure Services further at this time as this could result in duplication of effort.
- 3.04 In closing the last meeting, the Group recognised the professionalism of the officers who attended the meetings. The officers were able to answer most of the questions asked from the data they had provided and all requested information was presented to Members. Their initial presentation was a succinct evaluation of the situation and the Group wished to express their thanks for the support they had provided.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee agree to recommend to the Cabinet that:-
- Consideration be given to capital receipts received from the sale of land at Ysgol Perth y Terfyn Infants and Ysgol y Fron Junior School being ring-fenced for maintenance works for Leisure Centres in Flintshire.
- 4.02 That the Committee support the proposal of the Task & Finish Group that it was inappropriate to continue to review Leisure Services further at this time.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 None directly 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 A – Task & Finish Group Terms of Reference.

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

None.

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



PROJECT PLAN FOR THE LEISURE FINANCE TASK & FINISH GROUP

APPENDIX A

<p>TERMS OF REFERENCE</p> <p><i>Set specific objectives.</i></p> <p><i>Be clear as to what is, and, as importantly, what is not, included in the topic.</i></p>	<p>To review the Leisure Services Budget for 2013/14:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider how best to address the current level of overspend within the Leisure Service budget. • To consider the opportunities available to encourage external funding. • With reference to the financial challenges faced by the Council, to consider how best to prioritise spend within the Leisure Services budget. <p>Out of scope:</p> <p>Play Development, Play Design, Public Open Space, Sports Development</p>
<p>Evidence Gathering</p> <p>➤ Documents</p> <p><i>What? Why?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakdown of the Leisure Service budget as approved by County Council for 2013/14. • Breakdown of annual income received from Leisure Services across Flintshire. • Summary of the Leisure Assets portfolio • Revised organisational chart for Leisure Services.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Internal Contributors <i>(Both Members and officers) Who? Why?</i> ➤ External Contributors <i>(e.g. Service users, community representatives, key stakeholders, recognised experts, other organisations etc.) Who? Why?</i> ➤ Site Visits <i>Where? Why?</i> ➤ Consultation/Research/Other Methods <i>Why? What? Who?</i> <i>Does the Committee wish to publicise its review by issuing a Press Release and possibly invite views?</i> 	<p>Cllr Kevin Jones (Cabinet Member), Ian Budd, Director of Lifelong Learning, Lawrence Rawsthorne, Head of Culture & Leisure, Mike Welch, Principal Leisure Services Officer, Paul Jones Business Improvement Manager and Accountants for the Leisure Service Budget</p> <p>Documentary input from Sports Wales on likely future funding scenarios.</p> <p>Site visits may be required to enable the Task & Finish Group to discuss the ongoing maintenance issues within the Leisure building stock with Facility Managers and listen to officer recommendations on how to prioritise spend within the Leisure Service budget.</p>
<p>FORMAT OF MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Venue of Meetings <i>Can they be held in the community?</i> ➤ Frequency of Meetings ➤ Co-options <i>Does the Committee wish to co-opt members onto the Committee for the review? If so, who and why?</i> 	<p>County Hall</p> <p>As required</p> <p>Invite the Chairman of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee to sit on the Task & Finish Group.</p>

<p>➤ Member Involvement <i>Full Committee, task and finish working group or individual or paired Members to drive the review.</i></p>	<p>Task & Finish Working Group recommended.</p>
<p>TIMESCALES FOR REVIEW <i>Realistic and achievable timescale. Establish a commencement date and set a target date for issue of final report to the full Committee.</i></p>	<p>Commencement date – The first meeting of the Task & Finish Group was held in October 2013 to enable relevant information to be collated.</p> <p>Completion date – It is recommended that the work of the Task & Finish Group should be completed in time to feed into the Revenue Budget considerations for 2015/16.</p>
<p>FOLLOW UP <i>What happens next? Should a Press Release be issued drawing attention to the Committee's report? Monitoring/progress reports?</i></p>	<p>Monitoring Reports will be made to the Committee if necessary before a final report is submitted.</p>
<p>LESSONS LEARNED <i>Review the complete process. What went well, what did not go quite so well and what can be learned for future reviews?</i></p>	

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FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

DATE: **THURSDAY 19TH JUNE, 2014**

REPORT BY: **HOUSING AND 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 Committees 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.

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CURRENT FWP

Date of meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible / Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
24 July 2014	Inclusion Service Review	To demonstrate to the Committee how the Inclusion Service review as being implemented in practice.	Service Review	Chief Officer Education & Youth	16 July 2014
	Year End Service Performance Report	To consider the 2013/14 Year End Service Performance Report produced at the Head of Service level under the adopted business model of the Council.	Performance Monitoring	Chief Officer Education & Youth	
	Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report	To consider elements of the 2013/14 Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report relevant to the Committee.	Performance Monitoring	Chief Officer Education & Youth	
25 September 2014					17 September 2014
23 October 2014	Quarterly Performance Reporting	To consider Q1 performance outturns for improvement targets.	Performance Monitoring	Chief Officer Education & Youth	15 October 2014

4 December 2014	Quarterly Performance Reporting	To consider Q2 performance outturns for improvement targets.	Performance Monitoring	Chief Officer Education & Youth	26 November 2014
15 January 2015					7 January 2015
26 February 2015					18 February 2015
26 March 2015	Quarterly Performance Reporting	To consider Q3 performance outturns for improvement targets.	Performance Monitoring	Chief Officer Education & Youth	18 March 2015
24 April 2015	Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)	To receive an update on progress with the development of the regional school effectiveness and improvement service, to include a presentation from the Chief Officer of GwE.	Performance Monitoring	Chief Officer Education & Youth	16 April 2015
4 June 2015					27 May 2015
16 July 2015	Quarterly Performance Reporting	To consider Q4/Year End performance outturns for improvement targets	Performance Monitoring	Chief Officer Education & Youth	8 July 2015

Items to be scheduled

- Update report on the timescales of the bespoke websites for all Leisure Facilities
- Update on the growth of sports development activities for 0 – 7 year olds – **October 2014 (to allow for the scheme to be running for a school year)**
- Update report on the Flintshire Music Service Review (to include information on the number of pupils who had requested tuition but had given up after a short period of time) – **October 2014**
- Free School Meals (to include information on how this links to family credit)
- Footfall at Libraries in Flintshire (regular update report every six months)

REGULAR ITEMS

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
	School Modernisation	To update Members on the progress made with School Modernisation	Chief Officer Education and Youth
February	Pupil Attainment	To provide Members with a summary of pupil attainment across primary and secondary school	Chief Officer Education and Youth
February / March	Incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire schools	Annual update report to review progress	Chief Officer Education and Youth
March	Children & Young People Plan	Monitoring Report	Chief Officer Education and Youth
March	Educational Attainment of Looked After Children	To receive the annual educational attainment report (joint meeting with Social & Health Care)	Chief Officer Education and Youth

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
November	School Balances	To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by Flintshire schools at the end of the financial year	Chief Officer Education and Youth
November	School Exclusions	Annual monitoring report to ensure effective mechanisms remain in place for exclusions, together with appropriate levels of intervention and support	Chief Officer Education and Youth
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.	Chief Officer Education and Youth
Quarterly	Performance Monitoring	To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring	Chief Officer Education and Youth
	School Meal Service	To receive an update on the key project milestones of changes to the School Meal Service	Chief Officer Education and Youth
April	Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)	To receive an update on progress with the development of the regional school effectiveness and improvement service, to include a presentation from the Chief Officer of GwE.	Chief Officer Education and Youth