

# Public Document Pack

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Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democraataidd



To:

CS/NG

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Amanda Bragg,  
Peter Curtis, Adele Davies-Cooke, Ian Dunbar,  
Andy Dunbobbin, Carol Ellis, Veronica Gay,  
Ron Hampson, Cindy Hinds, Hilary Isherwood,  
Stella Jones, Colin Legg, Phil Lightfoot,  
Brian Lloyd, Mike Lowe, Dave Mackie,  
Nancy Matthews, Ann Minshull, Hilary McGuill,  
Ian Roberts, Paul Shotton, Ian Smith, Nigel Steele-  
Mortimer, David Williams and David Wisinger

28 April 2014

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## **Co-opted Members**

David Hytch, Rita Price, Rebecca Stark, Rev. John  
Thelwell and Stephanie Williams

Dear Sir / Madam

A meeting of the **JOINT LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
COUNTY HALL, MOLD** on **FRIDAY, 2ND MAY, 2014** at **2.00 PM** to consider the  
following items.

Yours faithfully

Democracy & Governance Manager

## **AGENDA**

- 1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**  
Nominations will be sought for a Chair for the meeting.
- 2 **APOLOGIES**

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

- 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)**
- 4 **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN** (Pages 1 - 12)  
Report of Director of Lifelong Learning enclosed.
- 5 **CORPORATE PARENTING** (Pages 13 - 18)  
Report of Director of Community Services enclosed.
- 6 **SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION REPORT** (Pages 19 - 30)  
Report of Director of Community Services enclosed.
- 7 **VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SUPPORT TO CHILDREN & ADULTS IN FLINTSHIRE** (Pages 31 - 36)  
Report of Director of Community Services enclosed.

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **JOINT LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **FRIDAY, 2 MAY 2014**

**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

**SUBJECT:** **EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To update members on the attainment of Looked After Children in Flintshire in the Academic year 2012-2013.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 This report is based upon the last day of the academic year 2012 – 2013 for those pupils in care on that day, regardless of how long they have been in care, for pupils of statutory school age:

*The statutory school age means any age between 5 and 16 years. See Section 35 of the Education Act 1944, the Education (School Leaving Date) Act 1976, and the Education 1996.*

2.02 The data has been grouped into four age groups corresponding to the National Curriculum Key Foundation Phase to K.S. 4.

Table 1

<b>Primary</b>				
	<u>School Year</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>School Stage</u>	
Group 1	Nursery	3 - 4	<b>FOUNDATION PHASE Key stage 1)</b>	
	Reception	4 - 6		
	Year 1	5 - 6		
Group 2	Year 2	6 - 7		<b>Key Stage 2</b>
	Year 3	7 - 8		
	Year 4	8 - 9		
	Year 5	9 - 10		
	Year 6	10-11		

	Year 8	12 -13	
	Year 9	13 -14	
Group 4	Year 10	14 -15	<b>KEY STAGE 4</b>
	Year 11	15 -16	
Post 16	Year 12	16 -17	<b>Key stage 5</b>
	Year 13	17 -18	

For the purposes of the report children looked after under Short Breaks/Respite Care are not included in the statistical analysis.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **3.01 Profile of the Group**

There are **140** relevant children within the cohort:

- **Foundation Phase** - 51 children (22 of which are in nursery provision)
- **Key Stage 2** - 32 children (11 have additional needs, of those, 6 have statements of special educational needs, 2 are Polish and have English as an additional language, 2 are in special schools and 1 attends an International school))
- **Key Stage 3** - 33 children (10 children in special provision i.e. special schools or PRUS) - 10 children have a statement, 4 are on role in a mainstream, 6 are in alternative provision.
- **Key Stage 4**  
Total Key Stage 4 = 24 young people, with 13 learners educated outside of the mainstream schools i.e. in pupil Referral Units or Special Schools. 5 learners have a statement of SEN (1 pupil with a statement is educated in mainstream provision. 11 learners are in mainstream education.

#### **3.02 Additional Learning Needs (Special Education Needs)**

A child has ALN if he or she has Learning Difficulties or Emotional Social Behavioural Difficulties (BSED) which requires special provision to be made for him or her to access the curriculum. Pupils with ALN may have a statement (SEN) issued by the Local Authority under Part IV of the Education Act 1996. Statements of SEN often follow a process of formal assessment by the local authority. Once a statement has been written, providers have a legal obligation to provide the appropriate provision detailed within the document.

3.03 Pupils may also have their needs identified by a school needing additional resources but not a statement. This is School Action (SA) if a child requires additional resources provided within the school by the school.

3.04 If requiring input from the LEA, or outside provision, this is School Action Plus (SAP). The 2012-2013 Cohort Profile:

22 (16%) of Looked After Children have a Statement of Special Educational Needs in Flintshire. Whilst the national average is 2.0% of the school population having a statement of SEN. Looked After Children in Flintshire are over represented on the list of children who have a statement of SEN, this may be symptomatic of difficulties that children present before they are brought into local authority care and not necessarily because they are brought into care.

The total number of the 140 with identified ALN is 25% of the total cohort.

This includes statements and support at school action plus and education outside of mainstream. This % may be higher when consideration is made to those children within the Foundation Phase whose needs have not been fully assessed.

### 3.05 **KEY STAGE Profile**

The following information into each Key Stage:

#### **Group 1 Foundation Phase – Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and year 2**

This group of children will not have a baseline Key Stage 1 assessment because they are too young. There were 51 children in this group. 22 were in nursery settings. This is a considerable increase in size of population on previous years and shows that there is an increase in younger children being brought into care. These children are following the Welsh Foundation Phase assessment process. At this stage a child's performance is assessed through an individual child centred approach without a formal testing mechanism against a national baseline. Teachers are looking for a child developing a series of milestones. Progress is recorded in the child's file. During the next academic year there will also be literacy and numeracy test results for year 2 pupils becoming available.

Only pupils with ALN are tested as part of the assessment process to issue a Statement of Special Educational Needs.

Reports on Attainment at Key Stage 2 and 3 are based on the national baseline Core Subject Indicator (CSI).

#### **Group 2 - Key Stage 2 – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6**

There are currently 32 children in this category, of these, 10 children were subject to the CSI assessment in Year 6.

*To achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 2 the child must gain a level 4 assessment in all Core Subjects to include Maths, Science and English (or Welsh). The Flintshire average was 80.3%, Welsh average 83 %. For Children in Need in Wales 43%, Children Looked After in Wales 57%, (source: Children in Need Census, 2011)*

For this group, 3 out of the 10 met the CSI at level 4 i.e. 33%

#### **Group 3 - Key Stage 3 –Years 7, 8 & 9**

There are 33 children in this category.

Out of these, 10 children were subject to the end of Key stage 3 teacher assessment in Year 9. All of the 10 pupils underwent end of key stage teacher assessment, of which 5 achieved the CSI = 50%.

*To achieve the Core Subject Indicator at Key Stage 3 the child must gain a*

level 5 assessment in all Core Subjects to include Maths, Science and English (or Welsh). The Welsh Average in 2011 68%, Flintshire 69% approximate.

#### **Group 4 Key stage 4 – See Appendix 1 – Qualifications and Outcomes for Year 11 LAC**

A statistical analysis of the group characteristics for the 17 young people is set out in the following section. There are 2 tables a. shows the students who left local authority maintained schools and b. showing those students who left Private Non maintained settings (those in these settings are not reported in the average points score).

3.06

#### **Summary**

At the end of year 11:

- 16 young people left with a formal recognised qualification. (1 refused to attend or engage with education)
- 8 achieved 5 or more GCSEs or equivalent
- 14 young people were identified as having Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
- All pupils in maintained schools achieved at least one recognised qualification.
- 10 pupils achieved GCSE qualifications in both English and Maths.
- The average points score for this cohort is 182 within a range of 0 to 446 (without those from non maintained settings)
- All learners apart from 1 have a planned pathway into college or school post 16.

#### Legal Status of school leavers

- 100% Full Care Order to the local authority with foster placement, residential care and placement with parent
- 0% - Voluntary accommodation

#### Additional Learning Needs – ALN

- 47% - with SEN (Statemented)
- 35% - SAP (School Action Plus)
- 18% - No additional needs

#### Type of Educational Establishment Yr 11 Leaving From:

- 47% in mainstream secondary school
- 23% in Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)
- 12% in Residential school
- 6% in special circumstances – Mental Health facility
- 12% in special school

#### Out of County Education Establishment

- 23% of LAC in Year 11 educated outside Flintshire

#### Average age for school leavers becoming LAC

- 9 years

#### Post 16 Destinations in September 2013

- 82 young people in school or college
- 12% young people choosing not to be in education, employment or training – NEET
- 6% in special circumstances – Hospital facility with education available

### 3.07 **Conclusion and Reference**

Flintshire Local Authority places the educational achievement of Looked After Children as a high priority and to this end, the authority have in 2013/14 initiated the following:

1. Set up a task and finish group to examine the processes and interface between education services and children's services, so that both agencies can work together to provide best outcomes for this vulnerable group.
2. Invited school representatives to help with effective spending plans for grants that target the LAC group. e.g School effectiveness grant and pupil Deprivation Grant (which this year amounts to £918 per student)
3. Organised training for school staff to raise the profile of LAC in schools and to highlight the requirement for all schools to have a LAC co-ordinator.
4. Be at the forefront of creating regional systems across North Wales to ensure a co-ordinated response including the creation of a virtual LAC school with a data base to reflect the needs of this vulnerable group.

There has been a considerable increase in the average point score for LAC leavers this year, but there is also a recognition that the ability of the cohort of leavers is the greatest determining factor on results. The experiences of many Looked After Young People still represent barriers for which much coordinated action is required. The Local authority will however be ensuring that their fullest potential is being achieved with all the measures that are being put in place.

The children who become looked after are often delayed in their education journey, often under stimulated with poor language skills. Exposed to the trauma that domestic violence, substance and alcohol abuse, neglect and emotional harm impacts on their learning cycle.

### 4.00 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01
- That the work of the LAC 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 LAC Pupil Deprivation Grant which has doubled to £918 for the financial year 2014-2015
  - That the literacy and numeracy strategy be used to further identify and up-skill those children and young people who may not be achieving to their potential.
  - That those children who have Additional Learning Needs (ALN) continue to access specialist support to help them reach their potential.
  - The directorates of Social Services and Lifelong Learning continue to work collaboratively to further enhance and embed consistent approaches with regard to LAC.
  - That there is a continuation of support for LAC from the School Effectiveness Grant from the Welsh Government.
  - That work to develop a data base on a regional basis to reflect the needs and support provision required for all Looked After children continues.
  - The positive collaboration across local authorities should continue to be encouraged so that cross border working and information sharing improves.

**5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 None.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 None.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**



11.01 None.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 – KS4 Qualifications and Outcomes 2012-13  
Appendix 2 – KS4 Qualifications and Outcomes 2012-13 for those  
students in non maintained settings

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

None.

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**Qualifications and Outcomes 2012 - 2013**

**Year 11 LAC in Maintained Schools**

Social Services Number	Legal Status	Child's Name	DOB	Gender	Age at LAC(yrs)	School Type	Additional Needs	OOC School	Key Stage 4 Care Placement with Changes	Qualifications	Post 16 Destinations		Point Score
											Education	Accommodation/ Care Placements	
5176	CO	Child A	1997	M	11	PRU	SAP Behaviour issues	No	Foster Care	Entry Level English 2. Refused to attend school or engage with education	NEET Refused college place	Foster Care	12
21794	CO	Child B	1996	M	5	PRU	SAP Managed move from mainstream	No	Residential Care	GCSE English Lang C, English Lit C, Maths C, Geography E, History D.	College	Semi independent living	179
45943	CO	Child C	1997	F	7	PRU	SEN MLD	Yes	Foster Care	BTEC Level 1 Hospitality, Entry Level 2 English, Maths Entry Level 1, ICT Entry Level 3, Entry Level 1 PE, Entry Level - Media Level 2, OCR Science Level 1, Creative Crafts Level 1.	College	Foster Care	88
27294	CO	Child D	1996	M	8	Mainstream Secondary	None	Yes	Foster Care/1 move	Religious Education GCSE short course G, GCSE PE short course F, Welsh GCSE short course G, GCSE Maths G, GCSE English Lang E, BTEC Applied Science P, OCR ICT pass, Application of no. entry level pass.	College	Foster Care	147
29598	CO	Child E	1997	F	13	Mainstream school	SAP Refused to attend	No	Placement with parent (PWP)	BTEC applied Science pass, English Lang D, GCSE Maths D, GCSE RE short course F.	College	PWP	159
46765	CO	Child F	1997	M	11	Mainstream	SEN Behaviour	No	Foster Care 1 move	BTEC Sport pass, BTEC Applied Science pass, BTEC Performing Arts M, GCSE Info & Comms pass, GCSE Maths E, GCSE Food Tech F, GCSE English Lang ), GCSE short course D, RSA ICT pass, GCSE Communication P.	College	Foster Care	434

94452	ACCD SEC 2O	Child G	1997	M	16	Mainstream	SAP Behaviour	Yes	Foster Care	GCSE Maths F, BTEC Applied Science pass, BTEC Sport P, GCSE English G, OCT ICT pass, GCSE Maths G.	College	Foster Care	174
26742	CO	Child H	1996	F	5	Mainstream	None identified	No	Foster Care	GCSE Drama D, GCSE English Lang D, GCSE English Lit D, GCSE Maths F, GCSE Music F, GCSE Health & Social Care D, GCSE RE C, GCSE Welsh short course C.	College	Foster Care	267
32857	CO	Child I	1997	F	12	Mainstream	SAP Literacy	No	PWP	BTEC Applied Science pass, GCSE Info & Comm Level 2 pass, GCSE English Lang D, GCSE Art C, GCSE Maths F, GCSE Media D, GCSE RE short course F, GCSE PE short course D, OCR Level 2 pass OCR Spoken Welsh Level 2 pass, Asdan - personal effectiveness pass, Asdan Comm. Volunteering pass, OCR Reading Welsh, OCR Writing Welsh pass.	College	Care Order discharged	273
14898	CO	Child J	1996	M	10	Special School	SEN MLD	No	PWP	Entry Level 2 Communication, Entry Level 1 Application of No., Entry Level 2 Science, Entry Level 3 ICT	School	PWP	50
41331	CO	Child K	1997	M	8	Special School	SEN MLD	No	Foster move to PWP	Entry Level 1 Communication, Entry Level 2 Application of No., Entry Level 2 Science, Entry Level 3 ICT	School	PWP	48
3536	CO	Child L	1996	M	4	Mainstream	SAP Literacy	No	Foster Care	GCSE English Lang G, GCSE Maths G, BTEC Level 2 Hospitality pass, Entry Level 3 RE.	College	Foster Care	86
15512	CO	Child M	1997	F	2	Mainstream	None identified	Yes	Foster Care	GCSE Drama B, GCSE Dance B, English Lang B, English Lit C, GCSE Maths B, GCSE RE F, GCSE Science B, BTEC Business Studies Distinction, BTEC IT Distinction, BTEC Health & Social Care Merit.	College	Foster Care	446

## Qualifications and Outcomes 2012 - 2013

### Year 11 LAC in Non-Maintained Schools Anonymous

Social Services Number	Legal Status	Child's Name	DOB	Gender	Age at LAC(yrs)	School Type	Additional Needs	OOC School	Key Stage 4 Care Placement with Changes	Qualifications	Post 16 Destinations	
											Education	Accommodation/Care Placements
	CO	Child A	1997	M	2	Secure Hospital	SEN Behaviour. Unable to attend lessons re: mental health	Yes	Secure Hospital	Entry Level ICT pass	Secure Hospital	Secure Hospital
	ICO	Child B	1997	F	15yrs 10mths	PRU history - did not attend	SAP for gobal difficulties - missing from care	Yes	Residential Home/School	None - missing from care during exam period	NEET	Residential Home
	CO	Child C	1997	M	15yrs 9mths	Special School	SEN MLD	Yes	Special School, transfer to Residential School	Entry Levels PSD 2, Pathways 2, Additional English 2, IT 2, Healthy Living 2, Entry Level Engineering point score 70	Still attends Special School	Residential living continues
	CO	Child D	1997	M	12	Residential School	SAP Behaviour	Yes	Residential School	GCSE English Lang C, GCSE Maths C, GCSE Science F	College	No longer LAC from July 2013

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## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **JOINT LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **FRIDAY, 2 MAY 2014**

**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:** **CORPORATE PARENTING**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To advise and report on the progress of corporate parenting within the Local Authority.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 Corporate parenting is the term used to refer to the collective responsibility of the Council to provide the best possible care and protection for children and young people who is looked after.

2.02 This was first established in the Children Act (1989) and the Welsh Government's guidance 'If This Was My Child' as enshrined in the legislation of the Children Act (2004).

2.03 The term looked after refers to any child or young person for whom the authority has or shares responsibility. Corporate parenting is a core statutory responsibility and the Local Authority has established a number of mechanisms to ensure our compliance.

These include the following:

#### 1. The Children's Services Forum (CSF)

The Children Services Forum (Established in 2005) remains at the core of our corporate parenting activity. This is made up of young people, members, a foster care representative, a secondary head teacher and attendance by a range of officers. During the year the agendas have covered a diverse range of subjects including:

- Post 18 year old housing arrangements
- The looked after children's educational arrangements
- Presentations from CAFCAS
- Visits from CSSIW Inspectors
- Review of our Pride of Flintshire Awards

The Forum provides the opportunity for information sharing and at the same time rigorous cross-examination by its members to challenge current and future plans and to assist in the shaping of better outcomes for our looked after children.

Inspection feedback from our Fostering and Child Care inspections suggested the need for a better location and structure of the meeting to be reflected upon. The next scheduled Children's Services Forum is addressing these issues with a new venue to be finalised.

## 2. The Pride of Flintshire

The Pride of Flintshire was held over two nights (Autumn 2013) with in excess of 400 children, young people, carers, parents, friends and county representatives who were enthralled by the joy of our children's many tales. It provides the most vivid display of the talent, success and positive outcomes.

The event takes up to a year to prepare for, is facilitated by our Participation Officer in conjunction with representatives of the young peoples groups and volunteer members of staff.

The Children's Commissioner has been a regular attendee over the last several years and his concluding remarks at the end of the evening are inspiring in their wisdom and their appreciation of the children and young people's challenges to overcome adversity and their resilience to achieve such triumphs.

## 3. A Review of our Looked After Children's Educational Outcomes

Continuing concerns have been recorded in relation to our Year 11 students (aged 15-16) and the poor performances in obtaining GCSE and equivalent qualifications at the completion of their statutory education.

A formal working group was established (October 2013) and has identified 5 areas for review.

- Refreshing the Corporate Parenting Strategy
- The introduction of a Performance Management System
- Reviewing the key role of Carers in education matters.
- The use of Grants/ Funds to support curriculum and learning.
- A review of Personal Education Plans and related support.

## 4. Participation Groups

We operate two active participation groups, Care Leavers Support Network (CLSN) and Speaking Out for Children in Care Group (SOCC). These groups are facilitated by our Participation Officer.



These groups provide feedback, insight and review topics of interest and importantly that children and young people have an active voice and say in decisions which impact upon them.

The CLSN is composed of young people who have moved on from statutory care at post 18 and will focus upon issues in relation to

Access to welfare benefit support  
Accommodation provision and availability  
Guidance in relation to education, training and employment.  
On going support from the Local Authority.

The SOCC group is made up children and young people up to the Age of 18 and address the following common themes.

- Rights and entitlements as Young People in Care
- Access to additional support to pursue hobbies etc.
- Preparation for Post Care arrangements.

#### A2A Card

This continues to roll out to all young people in care. This provides young people with a simple card which identifies them as being in care and avoids delay or unnecessary requests for information from Reception staff or when a young person requires time out in a school setting.

All secondary schools (excluding our Specialist Secondary provisions) are fully committed to the scheme. The evaluation of the first full year (commencing in September 2013) indicates a low usage rate. The feed back from young people indicates that whilst it is not frequently used having such a card provides them with a valuable safety net in times of adversity or uncertainty.

The current number of young people who have been offered the card is 100% with an up take of 80% as of April 2014.

#### 5. Corporate Parenting Policy Document

A revised and refreshed corporate parenting document which sets out the aims and objectives is currently being reviewed and will be presented to the CSF for consideration and scrutiny.

This forms part of the review of Education for Looked after children noted in (3). This will provide the key outcomes in relation to.

- The Local Authority's Obligations for LAC.
- Members accountability to up hold these obligations
- Compliance to Welsh Governments aims and objectives.
- Future developments in Corporate Parenting actions.

## 6. The Health of Looked After Children and Care Leavers

The role of the looked after Nurse / Leaving Care is to provide medical and general health care guidance. All children and young people are subject to annual health reviews, GP registration and dental checks. Services are also provided to support young people's emotional well-being alongside CAMHS and other related providers.

There continues to be year on year increase in the number of Health Assessments completed in time (2012/13 at 43%) with an estimated increase to 50% for 2013/14. This however remains below National targets (set at 70%) and requires ongoing dialogue with our colleagues from Health and associated agencies to increase these out turns.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01 The range of activity demonstrates the responsibilities to which the corporate parenting body has accountability and overview for.
- 3.02 The Children's Service Forum represents the core group to ensure compliance and adherence to these objectives are being met and sustained.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That the Committee consider the report and recognise the value of the work being undertaken to ensure we are meeting our corporate parenting aims and obligations.

### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 Since 2009 a budget of £20,000 per annum has been allocated to support corporate parenting activity within and by the County Council.

### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 Children and young people in the care of the Local Authority remain free from disadvantage and this commitment fulfils our Welsh Government obligations.

### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 None directly as a result of this report.

### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 To ensure that looked after children are given equal opportunities and parity of esteem with their non-looked after peer groups.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None directly as a result of this report.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None directly as a result of this report.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 That members of the CSF and respective young people's group are involved in respective decisions.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 None.

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

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## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **JOINT LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **FRIDAY, 2 MAY 2014**

**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:** **SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION REPORT**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To provide Members with statistical information in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 In line with the County Council's strategy for developing a systematic Performance Management Framework, Children's Social Services routinely collate safeguarding activity for Children in Need and those children whose names are included on Flintshire's Child Protection Register.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 This report informs Members of key statistical and performance related information about children for whom the Authority has significant safeguarding responsibilities.

3.02 This report covers the period from 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2013.

3.03 Management and performance data and commentary about safeguarding are presented as Appendix 1.0.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That Members accept this report as information in relation to Child Protection and Safeguarding for the period 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2013.

### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 Increased numbers of child protection referrals and registrations have required us to appoint additional staff and strengthen our services to keep pace with demand.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 Services to children in need are effectively managed to ensure that the needs of vulnerable the children are appropriately met.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 No direct impact.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 The provision of targeted services for children in need and their families contributes to the safeguarding and welfare of vulnerable children.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 None

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 None

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Statistical and performance related information about children for whom the Authority has significant safeguarding responsibilities.

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

Social Services for Children Quarterly Performance Reports.

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**FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: SOCIAL AND HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**STATISTICAL REPORT: SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION**

**1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01 To provide Social and Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee with statistical and contextual information in relation to safeguarding and child protection.

This report covers the period from 1 October 2012 to 31 December 2013.

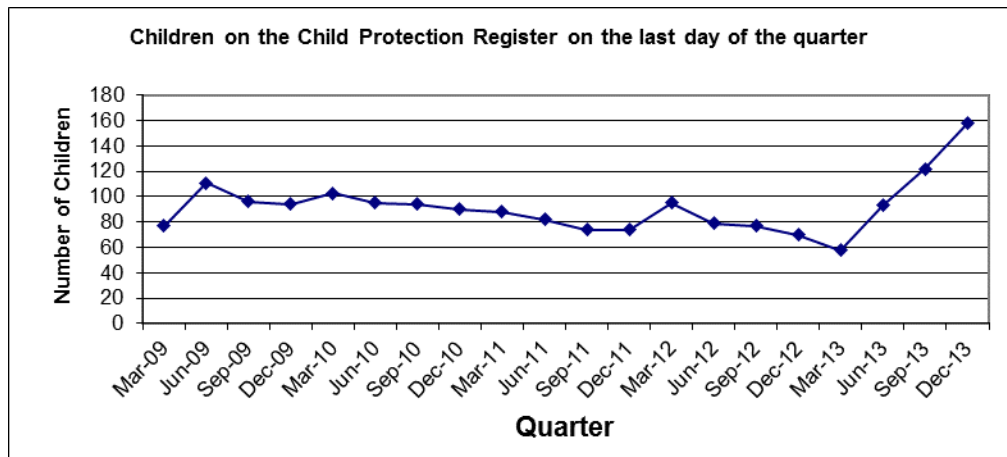
**2.00 CHILD PROTECTION REGISTER**

The purpose of the Child Protection Register is:

- to provide a record of all children in Flintshire with unresolved child protection issues and who are currently the subject of an inter-agency protection plan; and
- to ensure that the plans are formally reviewed within statutory timescales.

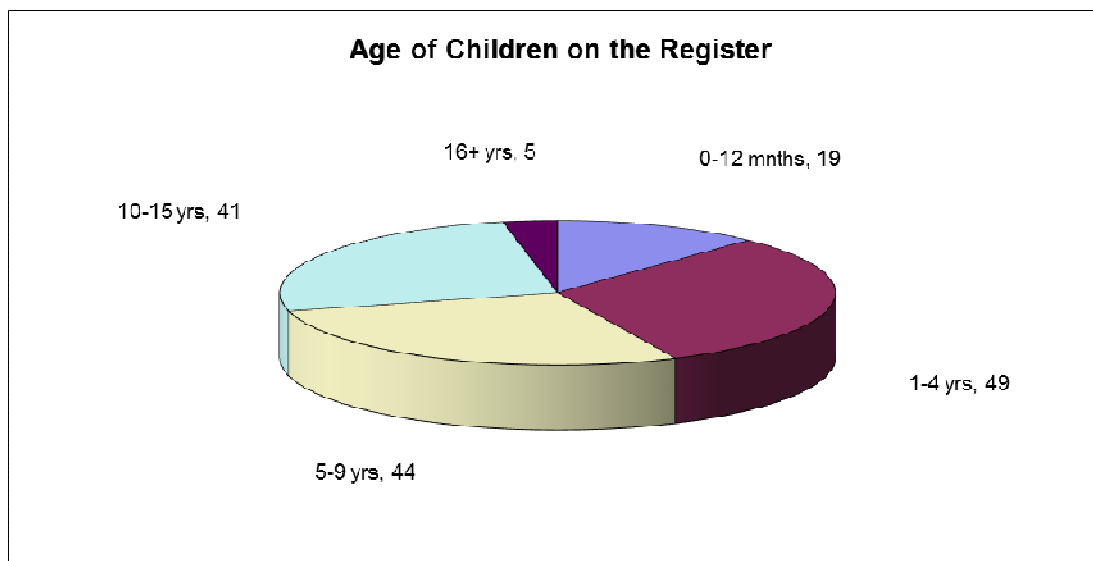
**Numbers on the Register**

- 2.01 Prior to the period covered by this report, the trend for child protection registrations in Flintshire was a steady decline, to a low of 58 at the end of March 2013. Comparisons with other Councils in Wales show that 8 out of 22 authorities also experienced a drop in their register numbers around this time. In Flintshire this was partly due to the deregistration of several large sibling group families in the period leading up to March. Because each child in the family is counted separately, a small number of large sibling groups removed from the register can have a significant impact on the Child Protection Register.

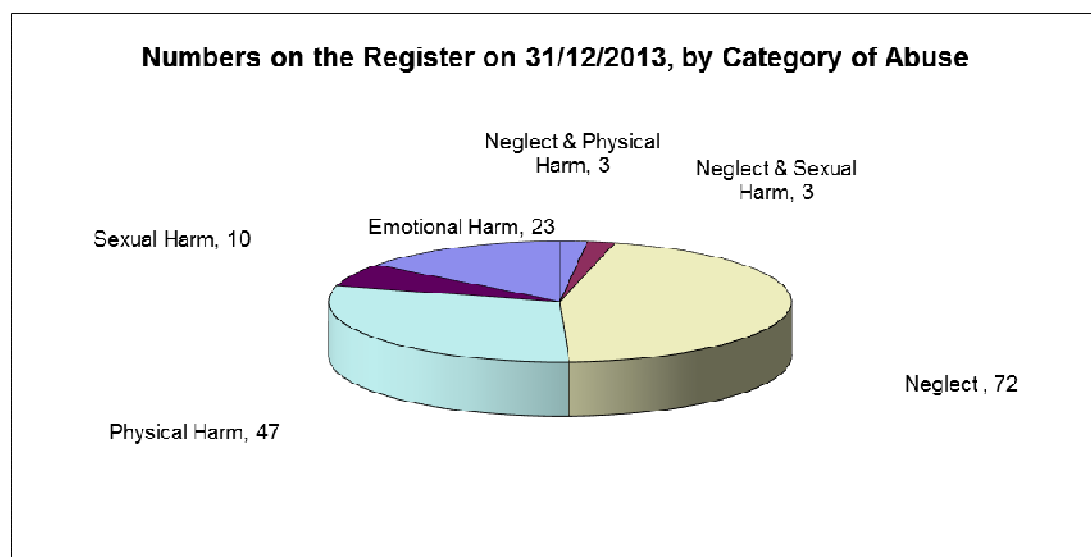


2.02 From March 2013 the number of registrations has increased sharply, to a high of 158 to the end of December 2013. This is in line with the trend across Wales.

2.03 The numbers on the Flintshire Register over the period can be broken down into age, gender and category of abuse. 43% of children on the Register were under 5 years old; this is an increase of 5% in Flintshire since September 2012, and is close to the Wales average of 45%.







The significant numbers of children experiencing emotional harm only are often due to the impact of living within a home where domestic violence or abuse is a factor, although it is acknowledged that all forms of abuse against children will include an element of emotional abuse.

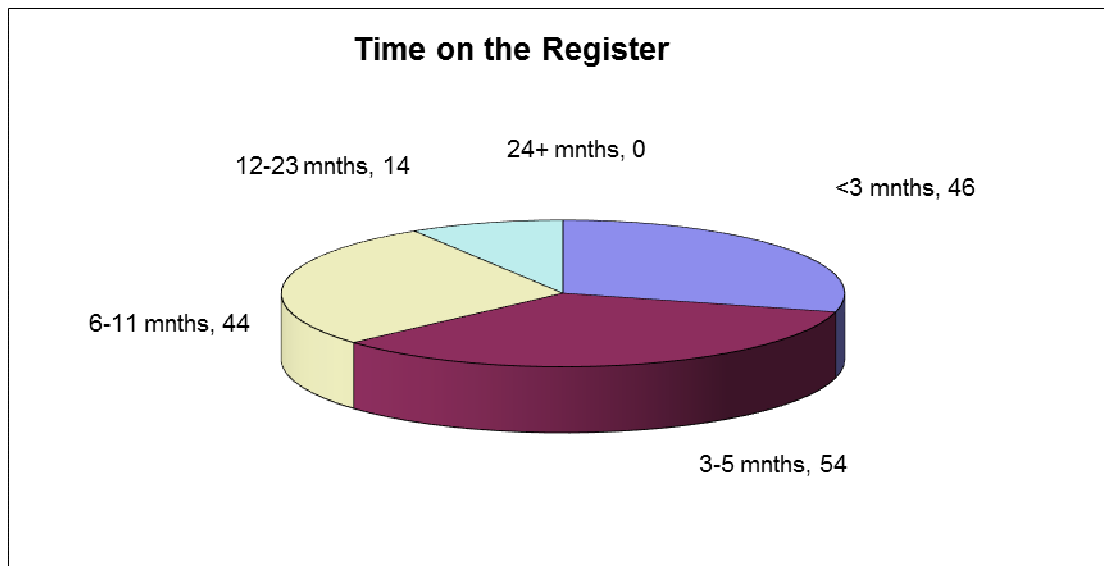
Across Wales, the highest number of registrations was in categories involving neglect, and the lowest in categories of sexual abuse. A similar pattern is seen in the Flintshire Register, at 46% for neglect and 6% for sexual abuse.

Category of Abuse	December 2012		March 2013		June 2013		September 2013		December 2013	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Neglect, Physical & Sexual								3		
Neglect & Physical Harm									2	1
Neglect & Sexual Harm				3		3	1		2	1
Physical & Sexual Harm										
Neglect	12	16	11	12	20	22	30	28	33	39
Physical Harm	10	9	4	9	9	8	14	9	27	20
Sexual Harm	6	3	5	3	6	4	9	4	6	4
Emotional Harm	6	8	6	5	8	13	11	13	14	9
Total	34	36	26	32	43	50	65	57	84	74

### Time on the Register

2.04 The following graph indicates the time that children have spent on the register, in month bands:

#### Time on the Register at 31 December 2013



In December 2013, 8.9% of the total number of children on the Flintshire register were registered for over 12 months. In comparison with the rest of Wales, children in Flintshire tend not to remain on the register for as long; 39% of deregistered children in the last 12 months were deregistered within six months of registration.

Children on the Register reaching the time of their third review are automatically reviewed under the new court and Public Law Outline and are subject to a legal advice meeting.

In addition, the Safeguarding Children Managers undertake a regular review of cases that have been on the child protection register for twelve months or more, and report the findings to the Head of Children's Social Services. This process provides an additional layer of oversight to ensure children are not on the register longer than necessary. On 31 December, no children had been on the register in Flintshire for more than 24 months. Protracted registration potentially indicates that the child protection plan needs addressing or the case escalating if parental change is absent.

### **Child Protection Referrals**

- 2.05 The table below shows the percentage of the total referrals to Children's Services which were Child Protection referrals.

### **Child Protection referrals as a percentage of all child referrals**

Referrals	Oct-Dec 2012	Jan-Mar 2013	Apr-Jun 2013	Jul-Sep 2013	Oct-Dec 2013
Number of All Referrals to Children's Services	190	175	246	211	196
Number of Child Protection Referrals	142	118	173	160	154
Number of Non-Child Protection Referrals	48	57	73	51	42
Child Protection referrals as percentage of total Referrals	74.7%	67.4%	70.3%	75.8%	78.6%

Overall, the number of referrals to Social Services for Children has remained fairly static since 2011, but the percentage of these which were child protection concerns has increased, from 53% in December 2011 to 79% in December 2013. This reflects the increasing complexity of the incoming work.

### 3.00 MONITORING PERFORMANCE IN SAFEGUARDING

- 3.01 The percentage of children on the CPR allocated to a qualified social worker is subject to national monitoring via the Performance Measurement Framework.

SCC/013 The percentage of open cases of children on the Child Protection Register who have an allocated social worker.

Advice from CSSIW indicates that all children on the CPR should have an allocated social worker. Our performance in this indicator is consistently good, at 100%. This indicator is considered by CSSIW to be a factor in identifying early signs of potential problems in Children's Social Services.

- 3.02 Within Social Services for Children, unmet need is collated on a monthly basis together with staff availability. The unmet need is reported at CSDMT (Community Services Directorate Management Team). Unmet need is primarily a concern for the Duty and Assessment Team who have limited ability to control their workflow. In the main unmet need relates to children in need cases and any unmet need in relation to child protection is of short duration and is prioritised for allocation.
- 3.03 In Flintshire, all children in need who are not registered on the CPR are subject to a management review every 8-12 weeks. Additionally, cases which have been open for more than six months require a full ICS (Integrated Children's System) review every six months. This is measured by the national performance indicator:

SCC/016 The percentage of reviews of child in need plans carried out in accordance with the statutory timetable.

Our outturn for 2012/13 was 74%, against an All Wales figure of 71%. Capacity in the teams has recently had an impact on performance

against this indicator; the increase in child protection activity has meant that this has been prioritised over the six monthly child in need reviews. The percentage of reviews of child in need plans carried out within timescales is running at 53% in the current year.

#### 4.00 CHILD PROTECTION CONFERENCES

4.01 The percentage of child protection referrals resulting in an initial case conference has increased in the period.

##### Initial Child Protection case conferences as a percentage of all child protection referrals

	Oct-Dec 2012	Jan-Mar 2013	Apr-Jun 2013	Jul-Sep 2013	Oct-Dec 2013
Number of all Child Protection Referrals	142	118	173	160	154
Number of Conferences (children)	44	21	59	54	77
Percentage	31.0%	17.8%	34.1%	33.8%	50.0%

In line with the general increase in referral numbers this year, we have seen a corresponding increase in child protection referrals. The percentage of referrals that result in a child being the subject of a child protection conference has increased to 50%.

Whilst the Safeguarding Managers do not decide which cases will come to conference, they do have a view following conference as to whether the decision to bring the case to conference was appropriate. There were no concerns in the period in question regarding cases being brought to conference inappropriately.

4.02 Initial child protection conferences in the period have resulted in the following registration statistics. Registrations were generally in line with the number of child protection referrals.

##### Initial conferences that took place in the Quarter, and the number of children registered at these conferences

	Oct-Dec 2012	Jan-Mar 2013	Apr-Jun 2013	Jul-Sep 2013	Oct-Dec 2013
Number Of Children Conferenced -Initial	44	21	59	54	77
Number of Children Registered	38	17	59	32	67
Number of Children Not registered	6	4	0	22	10

4.03 Child protection conferences are subject to national monitoring via the Performance Measurement Framework, and the following indicator definitions apply:

SCC/014 The percentage of initial child protection conferences due in the year which were held within 15 working days of the strategy discussion.

Occasionally conference requests are made late to the Children's Safeguarding Unit, or the Chair may decide to delay a conference in order to ensure that all the required information and attendees are available. However, in spite of the consistently high numbers of requests for conference, the Safeguarding Unit are continuing to manage the scheduling of the majority of initial conferences within timescales, by increasing their diary availability to 3-4 days per week, rather than the usual 2 days per week.

Our performance for 2012/13 was 97%; well above the All Wales average of 87.4%. So far this year, we have held 91.5% of initial conferences within timescales, although in the first 3 Quarters of this year we have already undertaken 40% more conferences than in the whole of last year, and this has had an impact on diary capacity.

SCC/015 The percentage of initial core group meetings due in the year which were held within 10 working days of the initial child protection conference.

The timeliness of initial core group meetings has improved from 98% at the end of last year to 99.4% at the end of December 2013. This compares favourably with the All Wales average of 88%.

All core group minutes are notified to the Safeguarding Managers via the Paris system. This enables the Safeguarding Managers to monitor adherence to the agreed child protection plan.

SCC/034 The percentage of child protection reviews carried out within statutory timescales during the year.

The timeliness of child protection review conferences improved from 97.7% in 2012/13 to 98.3% at the end of December 2013. This was above the All Wales average of 97.7%.

It is important to note that occasionally it is necessary to reschedule conferences, for reasons out of the control of the Safeguarding Manager. Although it appears worrying in terms of statistics for a conference to be held late, we collect reasons for all late conferences, and occasionally reschedule because, in the interests of the child, it would be inappropriate for the conference to go ahead. These are usually cases where a family member or professional whose attendance the Chair feels is essential, is unable to attend, but can also be due to staff sickness, late request of the conference by the Social

Worker, or family non-cooperation. Conferences may also be delayed to ensure that the family have adequate time to read through reports in accordance with the All Wales Child Protection Procedures.

- 4.04 Work is continuing towards improving the timeliness of the submission of social work reports to Child Protection conferences. All late reports are notified to the member of staff concerned, and this is discussed by the Team Manager at team meetings.
- 4.05 The Flintshire & Wrexham Local Safeguarding Children Board (FWLSCB) recognises the importance of children and young people being involved in the discussions and decision making which relate to their own lives. It therefore believes that children and young people should be consulted and involved at each stage of discussion and planning as far as consistent with their welfare. With regard to Safeguarding Children, the FWLSCB believes that children should be given the opportunity to participate in, and when appropriate, attend Child Protection Meetings (including conferences and core groups).

The Conference Buddy Scheme was introduced in recognition of the importance of children and young people being involved in the discussions and decision making which relates to their own lives. The scheme provides children and young people over the age of 10 with the opportunity to participate in, and when appropriate, attend Child Protection Meetings (including conferences and core groups).

## **5.00 CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING UNIT**

- 5.01 In Social Services for Children, the Safeguarding Unit staff undertake the chairing of Looked After Children reviews and Child Protection conferences, and offer a support and advice role to our frontline workforce. Safeguarding Unit staff visit all Fieldwork and Children's Integrated Disability Service teams to share information about processes and good practice guidance for social workers preparing for conference. They are also available to staff for consultations about the structuring of reports.
- 5.02 Safeguarding staff are currently the gatekeepers for decisions under Part 4 All Wales Child Protection Procedures where an allegation is made against a professional. Referrals are made to the Safeguarding Unit from the Duty and Assessment Team, Safeguarding staff determine whether thresholds for convening a Part 4 meeting are met and then would attend such a meeting as a Safeguarding Advisor.
- 5.03 Safeguarding staff attend MARAC and MAPPA fora as statutory agencies offering child protection advice and acting as a conduit for information between all agencies. Staff also represent Flintshire Children's Services on the Flintshire Wrexham Local Safeguarding Children's Board (FWLSCB) including PQAA (Performance, Quality

Assurance and Audit) SubGroup, Regional Policies and Procedures, Child Death Review Panel, and Participation Groups.

- 5.04 Numbers on the register have been increasing over the past 12 months which has had an impact on all areas of the Safeguarding Unit and Fieldwork teams. Where possible we have been able to meet the 15 working day timescale for convening initial case conferences by adding extra days for conferencing. For the majority of Quarter 3, the Safeguarding Unit were holding conferences 4 days a week. This has had an impact on the availability of standing members; Police, Community Paediatricians and Senior Nurse for Safeguarding as well as other agencies. This in turn has sometimes had an impact on quoracy and some conferences have had to be cancelled for this reason. As a result of the increase, permission was given by the Head of Service to draft shortened minutes for all initial conferences. Full transcripts are available on request if cases go into court proceedings. Conference recommendations are circulated within 24 hours of conference in the majority of cases.

Police, Health and Community Paediatricians have indicated over the last 12 months that resources would not be available for attendance at review conferences. This again has had an impact on quoracy and concerns have been raised with FWLSCB but the situation currently remains the same.

- 5.05 The Safeguarding Unit have worked with Fieldwork team managers to improve the timeliness of reports for conference. Whilst this is not 100% as yet, the situation is improving. It is hoped that the introduction of a single conference report encompassing aspects of PARIS, Risk 2 assessments and outcome focussed planning will assist with time management and also cut down on the amount of paperwork being prepared in advance of conference. The Safeguarding Unit are also piloting the use of EGRESS switch with ICT. This will enable us to communicate with more agencies electronically for invitations, recommendations and minutes which will in turn cut down on resources, time and paper, and also expedite communication.
- 5.06 Child Protection enquiries and external enquiries continue to take up a huge amount of resource within the Safeguarding Unit although together with Fieldwork we are discussing whether these processes can be improved.

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## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **JOINT LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **FRIDAY, 2 MAY 2014**

**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**SUBJECT:** **VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SUPPORT TO CHILDREN & ADULTS IN FLINTSHIRE**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To provide council members with information regarding current provision of support to children and adults with a visual impairment in Flintshire.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 This information report was requested by members during a recent scrutiny meeting.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Services to Children**

3.01 Flintshire County Council provides support through the *North East Wales Sensory Support Service* to children and young people across the counties of Wrexham, Denbighshire and Flintshire.

3.02 The service aims to promote equality of opportunity for children and young people with a sensory loss and works in partnership with parents, schools and other professionals to ensure children and young people with a vision or hearing loss have full access to the curriculum and achieve their potential from diagnosis through to the point that the individual leaves school-based education.

3.03 The service aims to ensure that all children and young people with a sensory loss are provided with appropriate support which will maximise their educational potential and independence and works in partnership with others to ensure that the needs of children and young people with a sensory loss are fully met, taking into account the views of parents/carers and family where appropriate.

3.04 The service works seamlessly with other educational services, Children's Services, Health and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisations, to support the needs of children and young people. Representation and

involvement with the following facilitate effective partnership working:-

- Children and young people's Integrated Disability Service (CIDS) referral panel
- Home Advisory Service
- Health Consultants
- RNIB officers
- Inclusion Support Services

3.05 The service seeks to foster good working relationships with parents of pre-school children in order that early intervention will initiate a shared responsibility for the holistic needs of the child. Regular home visits which may involve emotional support for the family, educational advice and mobility training.

3.06 For school aged pupils the aim of the service is to assess the needs of individual pupils and to suggest strategies to promote learning. A range of assessment will be provided by the service and will concentrate on functional vision and the impact of the sensory loss on their learning.

3.07 Sensory support staff provide direct teaching to school aged children and young people in specialist skills and curriculum areas, e.g. touch typing, Braille, mobility and independent use of specialist equipment as appropriate to individual need.

### **Referral Process for Children**

3.08 The service assists schools and other agencies to identify as early as possible the particular needs of children and young people with sensory difficulties and provide appropriate advice, support and provision for them.

3.09 The service operates an open referral policy where any concerned parties can refer children and young people to the service. However, where a child has a significant sensory impairment the referral will normally come from health professionals.

3.10 Bilingual support through the medium of Welsh is available for sensory impaired pupils, families and schools. Bilingual reports are made available as required along with the translation of any documentation into Welsh.

### **Criteria for involvement**

3.11 Specialist input can be provided if the young person has a medical diagnosis of sensory deficit or such a diagnosis is believed to be likely or imminent.

3.12 A nationally agreed eligibility criteria is used across the service to

ensure equality of provision for learners. This informs the identification of the level and nature of the support required along with the appropriate levels of staffing. It also provides a clear entry and exit criteria.

### **Services for Adults**

- 3.13 From an Adults Services perspective we have a Service Level Agreement in place with Vision Support to provide assistance to adults referred. Vision Support are considered to be a specialist provider in this field.
- 3.14 In addition to working with people with a sight impairment the service also works closely with visually impaired people who have additional complex needs such as dual sensory loss, learning, physical and mental health disabilities.
- 3.15 In order to provide a comprehensive service Vision Support provide staff who work alongside our intake team at County Hall and manage all referrals received.

### **Referral Process for Adults**

- A referral is received for support from our first contact team; this can come via a GP or other health professional or from individuals themselves.
  - The team then undertake a specialist assessment to identify individual's needs and aspirations. As part of this assessment we promote independent living.
  - As part of the assessment, risks to the individual are considered as well as their daily living skills. Based on the assessment daily living skills training is provided which may include the teaching of new skills or adapted practice in home management, employment and leisure.
  - Depending on the assessment of need the service will also support / teach indoor and outdoor mobility skills. This includes training with both guide cane and learning long cane techniques, orientation and route planning.
- 3.16 In addition the team will support a person to register their sight impairment and sign post people as appropriate to other parties including the health service, education service, welfare and employment services, and the RNIB who do offer welfare benefits and transition information.
- 3.17 The Service also works closely with local opticians who provide information, and can issue low vision aids in accordance with the

Welsh Government Low Vision Services.

3.18 Where necessary the service also recommends minor works of adaptation to an individual's home as highlighted in the specialist assessment to support their day to day living.

3.19 Central to the work of the rehabilitation workers is that they try to understand the psychological aspects of sight loss and provide emotional support as part of the rehabilitation process. This includes working closely with the individual their family and carers.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That members support the continued provision of services to those with a visual impairment within Flintshire as noted within this report

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 Current services provided to children and adults with a visual impairment are met from within budgets across education and adults services respectively.

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

6.01 Not applicable

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 Not applicable

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 This is specialist support provided to individuals with a sight impairment.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 Not applicable

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Not applicable

#### **12.00 APPENDICES**

None

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

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