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Contact Officer: Maureen Potter 01352 702322 maureen.potter@flintshire.gov.uk

To: Councillor Ian Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Paul Cunningham, Peter Curtis, Adele Davies-Cooke, Andy Dunbobbin, David Healey, Colin Legg, Phil Lightfoot, Dave Mackie, Nancy Matthews, Vicky Perfect, Nigel Steele-Mortimer, Carolyn Thomas and David Williams

Co-opted Members

Janine Beggan, David Hytch, Rebecca Stark, Bernard Stuart and Rev. John Thelwell

11 November 2016

Dear Councillor

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee which will be held at 2.00 pm on Thursday, 17th November, 2016 in the Coleg Cambria, Deeside 6th, Kelsterton Road, Connah's Quay, Deeside, CH5 4BR to consider the following items:-

Members are asked to note the venue and the start time for the meeting and to arrive at 1.00 p.m. A short tour of the facilities will take place prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

2 <u>DECLARATIONS</u> OF <u>INTEREST</u> (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 3 - 10)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2016.

4 **PERSON CENTRED PLANNING** (Pages 11 - 14)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education

Purpose: To provide the Committee with information from School

Leaders on outcomes from the pilot scheme.

5 **SCHOOL MODERNISATION UPDATE** (Pages 15 - 22)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education

Purpose: To inform the Committee of progress of the School Modernisation Programme.

6 **WELSH ADVISORY SERVICE** (Pages 23 - 28)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education

Purpose: To provide an overview of the work of the Welsh Advisory

Service, which provides support services to primary schools to raise standards in Welsh and Welsh as a second language

7 <u>14-19 PROGRESSION</u> (Pages 29 - 32)

Report of Democratic Services Manager - Cabinet Member for Education

Purpose: To enable the Committee to consider if it would be beneficial to

set up a Task & Finish Group

8 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 33 - 42)

Purpose: The Committee is asked to consider, and amend where

necessary, the Forward Work Programme for the Education &

Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Yours faithfully

Robert Robins
Democratic Services Manager

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 13 OCTOBER 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at Ysgol Treffynnon, Pen y Maes Road, Holywell, Flintshire CH8 7EN on Thursday, 13 October 2016.

PRESENT: Ian Roberts (Chairman)

Councillors: Paul Cunningham, Peter Curtis, Adele Davies-Cooke, Andy Dunbobbin, David Healey, Phil Lightfoot, Dave Mackie, Nigel Steele-Mortimer, and David Williams

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: David Hytch, Rebecca Stark and Bernard Stuart

APOLOGIES: Councillors Marion Bateman, Colin Legg, Nancy Matthews , Vicky Perfect and Carolyn Thomas. Janine Beggan.

<u>CONTRIBUTORS</u>: Councillor Chris Bithell, Cabinet Member for Education, Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Senior Manager School Planning and Provision, Finance Manager, and Senior Manager School Improvement.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator, and Committee Officer

Prior to the start of the meeting Mr John Weir, Head Teacher Ysgol Treffynnon welcomed the Committee to the Holywell Learning Campus. He said the Campus, which comprised a secondary school for pupils 11-16 and a primary school for pupils aged 3-11, was an exciting and innovative approach to co-located education services in Flintshire. He commented on the positive impact of the environment for learning and working and the school's aspirations to be a place of outstanding teaching and learning.

The Chair thanked Mr. Weir for his welcome and hospitality and for providing the opportunity for the Committee to have a tour of the facilities provided by the Campus.

24. <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>

Councillor Peter Curtis declared a declaration of interest in the following item as a School Governor of Holywell High School.

Councillor Andy Dunbobbin also declared a declaration of interest in the following item as a School Governor of Connah's Quay High School.

Item 4 – School Modernisation update

25. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 September 2016 had been circulated to Members with the agenda.

Accuracy

Councillor Dave Mackie referred to page 4, first paragraph, and said that the reference to 'mandatory' should be amended to 'non-mandatory'. Councillor Mackie also referred to page 8, and said his surname had been omitted from the second paragraph in item 21.

Matters arising

Councillor Chris Bithell referred to page 5, second paragraph, and the concerns which had been raised around the timing of the recent decision issued by the Welsh Government (WG) concerning the closure of John Summers High School. He asked if the Chief Officer had received a response from the WG to the concerns which had been put forward. The Chief Officer said he had written to the WG to outline the challenges in supporting communities under these circumstances but had not received a response as yet.

RESOLVED:

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

26. SCHOOL MODERNISATION UPDATE

The Chief Officer introduced a report to give an update on the progress of the School Modernisation Programme. He provided background information and advised that the projects at both Holywell Learning Campus and Deeside 6th had been delivered on time and within budget. He paid tribute to the work of officers, primary and secondary school staff, school governors, and external contractors for their hard work and commitment to provide a state of the art learning environment for pupils. The Chief Officer commented on the excellent GCSE and A level results achieved at Ysgol Treffynnon and said that being co-located provided both schools the opportunity to work together on aspects of school improvement and sharing best practice which would have a positive impact on the transition of learners between the phases and would underpin even higher levels of achievement for the future.

The Chief Officer advised that the project at Deeside 6th had been operational for the start of the new 2016 academic year and referred to the number of pupils on roll as at September 2016 and the courses currently available. Referring to the Holywell Learning Campus he said that Phase 1 (buildings) was handed over August 2016. Pupils from Holywell High School,

Ysgol y Fron Junior School and Ysgol Perth y Terfyn Infants school transferred to the new facility in September 2016. Phase 2 of the programme, to demolish the old high school building to create outdoor play and sporting facilities for Ysgol Treffynnon, would be completed in February 2017.

The Chief Officer referred to the key considerations as detailed in the report around statutory consultations and proposals and the transition arrangements/meetings with John Summers High School following the Ministerial decision announced in August 2016. He also referred to a report to be considered at the next meeting of Cabinet on 18 October 2016 on modernisation works at Connah's Quay High School in line with the Ministerial decision on the closure of John Summers High School. The Chief Officer advised that a report was also being submitted to the meeting of Cabinet for approval of the capital project to consolidate the current split site primary school buildings in Penyffordd onto one site in the village.

The Chief Officer reported that Cabinet had determined the statutory closure of Ysgol Maes Edwin and Ysgol Llanfynydd at its meeting on 19 April 2016. He explained that transition arrangements have been undertaken at both schools and pupils, parents, and staff are being supported through the process. Cabinet had also supported the commitment from the Governing Bodies of Ysgol Maes Garmon and Ysgol Mornant to develop and consult on a federation proposal. The federation would formally commence on 5 November 2016.

The Chair thanked the Chief Officer for the update and invited members to raise questions.

Councillor Dave Mackie referred to the proposed improvements to Connah's Quay High School and said his understanding was that funding provided under the school modernisation strategy could only be utilised for new building projects. The Chief Officer explained that the 21st Century Programme was focussed on new building and sustainable refurbishment.

Mr. David Hytch referred to paragraph 1.05 of the report and the number of students on roll and asked whether officers envisaged full enrolment in the future to justify the financial investment made. In his response the Chief Officer explained that the numbers on roll were positive and in line with expectations for the first annual cohort. Officers and school colleagues were confident that the number of students on roll would rise year on year.

Councillor Ian Roberts requested information on which schools 6th form pupils across Flintshire had previously attended. The Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision agreed to contact the schools in Flintshire to obtain this information prior to the next meeting. The Chair welcomed the opportunity to consider the further information and advised that the Committee would be able to continue to track A level results going forward.

Mr. David Hytch raised concerns around the Admission Policy and said he would like assurance that all young people had equal opportunity to achieve higher grades at GCSE or A level. The Chief Officer agreed to provide a future report on the work being undertaken to improve the advice provided to young people wishing to study their A Levels.

In response to the further queries and concerns raised by Councillor Mackie around the number of students on roll at the Deeside 6th the Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision, agreed to provide a breakdown of the information to identify where all sixth form students had previously undertaken their GCSE studies.

Referring to sixth form admission numbers, Mrs Rebecca Stark commented on the need to take into consideration a period of 'settling in' for students and suggested that data analysis be captured early next year to identify any changes.

The Chief Officer suggested that the Committee consider setting up a Task & Finish Group to review all aspects of information collected on 6th form pupils, in order to gain a clearer picture on progression pathways. Following discussion it was agreed that the following issues be considered by the Task & Finish Group:-

- Data on the number of 6th form pupils at the beginning of term and during the middle and end of term;
- Projected numbers for Deeside 6th at the start of the process;
- Overview of what all 16 years olds decide to do once they have completed their GCSE's.

The Chair suggested that the Committee be updated with information on the original projected student numbers and expectations for Deeside 6th. The Chief Officer said that this would could also be carried out by the Task and Finish Group. The Facilitator advised that a report seeking nominations for membership of the Task and Finish Group would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee.

Councillor David Williams expressed some initial concerns around the site identified for the new Penyffordd school.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the progress of the School Modernisation Programme be noted; and
- (b) That a report to enable the Committee to consider setting up a 6th Form Education Task & Finish Group be presented to the next meeting.

27. SCHOOL RESERVES AS AT MARCH 2016

The Chief Officer (Education and Youth) introduced the report to provide an analysis of the financial reserves held by schools in Flintshire as at 31 March 2016. He said an analysis of reserves for each school at the end of March 2016 was appended to the report. The Chief Officer explained that whilst positive balances in primary schools had been generally maintained the secondary sector was struggling to balance its budgets. This was a similar pattern reported across Wales and the national statistics on school reserves were due to be published on 20 October 2016.

The Chief Officer invited the Finance Manager to provide an update on the Authority's treatment of surplus balances. The Finance Manager explained that the Scheme for Financing Schools had been reviewed recently and it was agreed that it would be revised to place more onus on governing bodies to justify holding a balance which exceeded 5% of a school's delegated budget and was over the £50K/£100K threshold. Where there was no justification for holding a balance, or the balance has not been planned but has arisen incidentally, steps would be taken to claw back the funding. Commenting on the positive balances maintained by primary schools the Finance Manager reported that there had been a late allocation of funding in relation to Single Status at the end of the last financial year which had meant that some schools had a higher than anticipated balance. However, 8 out of 12 secondary schools in Flintshire were forecasting a deficit position by the end of the current financial year. The Finance Manager agreed to provide the Committee with a copy of the Welsh Government report on school reserves following publication in October 2016.

Mrs. Rebecca Stark asked whether there had been any response from the Welsh Government (WG) to the Authority's lobbying on the financial settlement. The Chief Officer responded that representations and letters had been made to the WG and he suggested that an update be provided to the next meeting of the Committee following submission of the draft financial settlement to County Council on 19 October 2016. The Chief Officer commented that the impact of continuing austerity measures on the financial resilience of schools was an area of concern. However, the issue of additional funding was undermined unless schools provided a robust statement as to the use the governing body proposed to make of a surplus in the school balance which exceeded 5% of the school budget.

During discussion the Finance Manager responded to the further queries raised by Members around deficit balances. She advised that Governors had no legal right to set a deficit budget without the consent of the Authority, however, schools forecasting a significant deficit position would be required to apply for a licensed deficit. She reported on the expertise and support provided by the Schools Accounting Team to schools where the financial position was cause for concern.

RESOLVED

That the school balances as at 31 March 2016, be noted.

27. QUARTER 1 IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT

The Chief Officer introduced a report to present the monitoring of progress for the first quarter of the Improvement Plan 2016/17 priority 'Skills and Learning' relevant to the Committee.

The Chair invited Members to raise questions.

Councillor Dave Mackie commented that there were a number of typographical errors in the Improvement Plan Monitoring report which was appended. The Chief Officer explained how the data was compiled and agreed to feedback the comments made by Councillor Mackie to ensure that report authors checked their reports prior to submission in future.

Mr. David Hytch referred to page 55 of the progress report and referring to the statement 'Leadership capacity does not match school needs' asked if this was a statement of risk or fact. The Senior Manager School Improvement explained that it was a statement of risk. Mr. Hytch referred to page 42, paragraph 1.10, of the report and asked what were the 'innovative ways' referred to in the first paragraph. The Chief Officer explained that pre school groups and early years were two examples.

Mr. Hytch drew attention to page 5 of the report, paragraph 1.2.6, and raised concerns that the only way to reduce the repairs and maintenance of school buildings blacklog was through the school modernisation programme. The Senior Manager School Planning and Provision, commented on the improved position regarding the repairs and maintenance backlog of school buildings and said there would continue to be a reduction going forward. The Chief Officer commented on the need to also maintain the quality and standards of new school buildings.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

28. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator introduced the report to consider the Forward Work Programme for the Committee. She drew attention to the venue for the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 17 November 2016 which was at the 6th Forum Hub, Coleg Cambria, and said a tour of the facility would commence at 1.00 pm.

Following a suggestion from the Chair, the Committee agreed that the meeting scheduled for 22 December 2016 be cancelled and that the item on

Quarter 2 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report which was scheduled for consideration be moved to the meeting to be held on 15 December 2016.

The Facilitator reported on the following additional reports which were to be added to the Forward Work Programme for the next meeting scheduled for 17th November 2016:

- Nercwys Primary School Review
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Welsh as a Second Language

Councillor David Healey suggested that Ysgol Castell Alun be added as a possible venue for a future meeting. Councillor Healey also asked if a report on the strategies used to engage with young people around Anti-Social Behaviour and substance misuse within the communities could be submitted to a future meeting. The Chief Officer explained that the strategies were outlined within the Youth Services Plan and suggested that a workshop on the Integrated Youth Strategy be organised for Members.

Councillor Healey asked if a report on the impact to teachers on curriculum changes imposed by Welsh Government could be presented to a future meeting. The Chief Officer said that the publication of the Education Plan from Welsh Government was awaited. It was agreed that the Facilitator would liaise with the Chief Officer on this issue following the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be approved; and
- (b) That the Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair and officers, be authorised to vary the work programme between meetings, as the need arises.

29. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

(The meeting started at 1.30 pm and ended at 4.35 pm)

Chairman





EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 17 th November 2016
Report Subject	Person Centred Planning
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Welsh Government is undergoing a period of transformation with regard to the education of children and young people with additional learning needs. It is understood that Person-Centred Planning will form an integral part of the reforms and this report provides an overview of the process and an update regarding the training offered to prepare schools and pupil referral units in Flintshire.

RECOI	MMENDATION
1	Members promote the use of Person-Centred Panning through their links with schools and the portfolio pupil referral units.

1.00	EXPLAINING PERSON CENTRED PLANNING	
1.01	The Welsh Government (WG) has undertaken to transform the system for supporting children and young people in Wales with additional learning needs (ALN). The ALN Transformation Programme will create a unified system for supporting learners from 0 to 25 with ALN.	
	The proposed system has clear defined aims to:	
	 ensure that all learners with ALN are supported to overcome barriers to learning and can achieve their full potential; improve the planning and delivery of support for learners from 0 to 25 with ALN, placing learners' needs, views, wishes and feelings at the heart of the process; focus on the importance of identifying needs early and putting in place timely and effective interventions which are monitored and 	
	adapted to ensure they deliver the desired outcomes.	
	WG has indicated that The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill will be introduced to the National Assembly for Wales before Christmas 2016.	
1.02	Work is underway to develop and finalise the Code of Practice which will provide guidance to all stakeholders regarding the implementation of the legislation. Whilst there is still a level of unknown detail regarding the new procedures, WG has given a clear indication that person-centred planning will form a core part of future processes.	
1.03	Person-centred planning (PCP) can be summed up as a holistic approach which provides: • a way of helping children and young people and their families think about what is important to and for them now and in the future;	
	 a continual process of listening and learning; a collection of tools based on shared values that can be used to plan with a child or young person not for them. 	
	The proposal is that the information captured through the use of PCP will be used to identify an individual's needs and support the agencies involved to design effective and bespoke interventions in partnership with the child and family. The detail from the process will be recorded in an Individual Development Plan which will replace Statements of Special Educational Need in the future.	
1.04	To support a national understanding of PCP, Welsh Government has provided a training grant of £13k to each local authority for the last two financial years. In Flintshire, this has been used to provide access for two staff from each school and Pupil Referral Unit to attend a two-day training programme. It was recommended that a senior member of staff attend along with a more operational practitioner to support an appropriate breadth of understanding to then support and drive implementation within each establishment.	

	The second phase of the training has been to identify and support Beacon Schools who have embraced PCP and are developing extensive expertise which can be shared with other establishments.
1.05	The Welsh Government has worked in collaboration with Helen Sanderson Associates to generate a range of resources for schools and local authorities to raise awareness and up skill practitioners. These have been promoted as part of the training and are accessible on the Learning Wales website.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Effective person-centred planning relies on trained staff who have the skills and time to work with individuals, family members and associated professionals. WG has established specialist work stream forums to further explore the potential impact of this on schools and other educational providers.
2.02	WG has recently made additional funding available to the four consortia across Wales to facilitate the further exploration/development of practices relating to the reforms. The North Wales Consortium regional bid has included the proposal to review the role of the Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) and other staff including the impact of adopting and embedding a PCP methodology. It is envisaged that this piece of work will lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of the resource implications likely to result from this aspect of the proposed reforms.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None required as a result of this report.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	There are no identified risks at the current time.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None attached.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESS	IBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Welsh Government Person-Centred Planning Guidance	
	Contact Officer:	Jeanette Rock Senior Manager – Inclusion & Progression
	Telephone: E-mail:	01352 704017 jeanette.rock@flintshire.gov.uk
	D-11-40	

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS	
7.01 Portfolio Pupil Referral Units : Specialist provision delivered by the authority across a number of different centres for children with a rar complex needs associated with behavioural, emotional and/or difficulties.		
7.02	Additional Learning Needs (ALN): The Bill replaces the current terms 'special educational needs' (SEN) and 'learning difficulties and/or disabilities' (LDD) with the one term ALN.	
7.03	Education Tribunal : An independent process that deals with appeals against local authority decisions about a child or young person and their education and also discrimination claims of unfair treatment in schools related to a disability.	
7.04	Code of Practice : WG guidance outlining the statutory requirements and recommended practice in relation to systems and provision for ALN.	
7.05	Beacon Schools : Flintshire term given to the education establishments identified as lead practitioners in relation to PCP.	
7.06	North Wales Consortium: The six local authorities located in North Wales, covered by the regional school improvement service GwE.	



EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 17th November 2016
Report Subject	School Modernisation Update
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To inform Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee of progress of the School Modernisation Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee is requested to note progress of the school Modernisation Programme.

1.00	BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS
1.01	21st Century Schools – Band A
	The Council has an agreed funding package with Welsh Government (WG) for its 21st Century Schools Band A programme of £64.2m. This is funded on a 50/50 basis between WG and the Council.
1.02	The construction projects at both Holywell Learning Campus (phase 1) and Deeside 6th have been delivered on time and within budget and they equate to £45.636 million of the funding £64.2 million funding leaving the balance of £18.564 million available to progress other projects agreed through the WG business case process.
	Since the last Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the former Holywell High School building has now been demolished. Approximately 90% of materials are being recycled. The project remains on time and within budget.
1.03	18th October 2016 Cabinet approved the development of the school capital project at Connah's Quay High School to design development, tender and Full Business Case submission to the Welsh Government, in line with programme criteria.
1.04	At the same meeting, Cabinet approved the capital project at Penyffordd to design development, tender and Full Business Case submission to the Welsh Government, in line with programme criteria.
1.05	The balance of the funding package will be used on Queensferry Campus, namely potential demolition or making secure/safe John Summers High school and improvement works to support the modernisation of inclusion provision in the area. Proposals to improve Queensferry CP Primary School will be considered in the following band of the 21st Century schools programme.
1.06	School Modernisation
	On 18 th October 2016, Cabinet agreed to a request to allow more time for the Governors and Diocesan Authority to work through strategic options for collaboration and sustainability of the Diocesan school estate. (See Cabinet report – Appendix 1)
1.07	Regular meetings relating to John Summers High school (JSHS) transition plan continue to take place with officers, JSHS and partnering schools. At the time of writing the cohort of pupils at JSHS is 190, this is predicted to reduce to 127 when year 11 leave the school for their exams.
	The Council is confident the transition plans are sufficiently robust to support learners through transition at that point.

1.08	Separate reports will be presented to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny
	at the appropriate stage, regarding other previously commissioned
	informal reviews.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are sufficient staff resource in which to implement the revised programme within programme constraints and timelines.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultations have been carried out, in accordance with the School Organisation Code and The Federation of Maintained schools (Wales) Regulations 2014.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	A Programme Board is set up to oversee the implementation business plans and manage risks in close detail. High level risks will be reported to Programme Board, operational risks will be managed by the project team in accordance with agreed tolerances.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Cabinet Report, Nercwys VA

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS	
6.01	None.	
	Contact Officer:	Damian Hughes Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision
	Telephone:	01352 704135
	E-mail:	Damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	(1) School Organisation Code – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2013) for the determination of
	most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections. Such

provisions apply to any proposals published on or after 1st October 2013 that consider the establishment, discontinuance or otherwise significantly alter schools.

The Council does this in line with the Welsh Government's statutory School Organisation Code

http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/130719-school-organisation-codes-en.pdf

(2) Federation and Collaboration - The federation of schools is a legal process which enables schools to work together through a formal structured process by sharing a governing body that will make decisions in the best interest of all the schools, staff and pupils in that federation.

The term federation is often used to describe many forms of collaboration between schools. The Statutory process of Federation is often referred to as "Hard Federation" An informal, non-statutory arrangement between schools is often called "soft federation" or collaboration, where schools have made a commitment to work together through some form of joint governance.

http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/140522-guidance-on-federation-of-schools-en.pdf

(3) Welsh Government Business Case Process.

In line with National Policy, for capital projects in excess of £5 million there is a requirement that they have to be approved under the four stage WG business case process, as follows:

- Strategic Outline Programme (SOP)
- Strategic Outline Case (SOC)
- Outline Business Case (OBC)
- Full Business Case (FBC)

Capital funding is released by WG at the approval of FBC.



CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 18 th October 2016
Report Subject	School Modernisation – Nercwys VA School Review
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To inform Cabinet of the progress of the review to date.

To invite Cabinet to pause the review to allow time to consider its strategic options for collaboration and sustainable school estate.

RECO	MMENDATIONS
1	Cabinet is requested to consider the progress of discussions undertaken to date between the Council, Diocesan Authorities and the school's Governing Body.
2	Cabinet is requested approve the request to pause the review and allow more time to follow through strategic options for collaboration and sustainability of its school estate.

1.00	BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS
1.01	In June 2015, the cabinet determined that officers could undertake a soft consultation of Nercwys Voluntary Aided (VA) school.

1.02	Nercwys VA school met a number of triggers for review:
	Small School trigger – School Population under the National designated number for a small school.
	 Diminishing Resource Criteria - Schools supported by pupils not from their local community and/or small numbers within the community raise concern regarding sustainability within the schools portfolio, higher costs per pupil, unnecessary building and administration costs.
	Building Condition Trigger – School Condition and Suitability issues.
1.03	The Education Standards at the school are good and this is positively acknowledged by Welsh Governments categorisation (January 2015) as follows:
	 School as Standards group – 1 Improvement Capacity - A Support Category – Green
1.04	A series of meetings have been held with Officers from the Council, Diocesan Authority and representatives of school governors, which looked at all possible options.
1.05	The Governing Body has acted as appropriate and passionate advocates on behalf of their school community. They have also had a clear understanding of the budgetary pressures on both the Council and small schools. The governors have indicated formally that they are willing to consider and pursue formal federation arrangements.
1.06	The Council has an excellent working relationship with the St Asaph Diocesan Authority. All parties feel that it would be prudent to pause the review to allow additional time to pursue further strategic options for collaboration to support a sustainable school network.
1.07	The Cabinet will be aware that The Federation of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2014 which came into force on 22 May 2014 give effect to LA's powers to federate schools. (School governors already have powers to federate by choice under provisions introduced in 2010. These powers have now been consolidated into the 2014 Regulations).
1.08	Under this Act a Voluntary Aided (VA) school is unable to federate with a community or foundation school. However VA schools are able to federate with other VA and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools. Alternatively Federation would be an option if they are able to persuade a community or foundation school to convert to VA or VC status.
1.09	As Cabinet is fully aware from reviews in other areas, reviewing schools, can cause uncertainty in the school community and it is important that we provide some certainty to ensure that the school can focus on continued education improvement.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no resource implications associated with this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Should cabinet agree with the recommendation currently no further consultations would be required as part of the School Organisation Code.

4.	00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.	01	A Programme Board is set up to oversee the implementation business plans and manage risks in close detail. High level risks will be reported to Programme board, Operational risks will be managed by the project team in accordance with agreed tolerances.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	No appendices

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Contact Officer: Damian Hughes, Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision Telephone: 01352 704135 E-mail: Damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	(1) Federation and Collaboration - The federation of schools is a legal process which enables schools to work together through a formal structured process by sharing a governing body that will make decisions in the best interest of all the schools, staff and pupils in that federation. The term federation is often used to describe many forms of collaboration between schools. The Statutory process of Federation is often referred to as "Hard Federation" An informal, non-statutory arrangement between schools is often called "soft federation" or collaboration, where schools have made a commitment to work together through some form of joint governance.

(2) School Organisation Code – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2013) for the determination of most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections. Such provisions apply to any proposals published on or after 1st October 2013 that consider the establishment, discontinuance or otherwise significantly alter schools.

The Council does this in line with the Welsh Government's statutory School Organisation Code

http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/130719-school-organisation-codes-en.pdf



EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 17 th November, 2016
Report Subject	Welsh Advisory Service
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the work of the Welsh Advisory Service which provides support services to primary schools to raise standards in Welsh and Welsh as a second language.

RECO	MMENDATIONS
1	That members receive the report on the work undertaken by the Welsh Advisory Service.
2	That members endorse the work of the Welsh Advisory Service in supporting schools to raise standards of Welsh in Flintshire schools.

1 00	1.00 EXPLAINING THE STRUCTURE AND PROVISION	
1.00	EXPLAINING THE STRUCTURE AND PROVISION	
1.01	The Welsh Advisory team consists of full time equivalent 3.3 staff. 2.8 FTE work in English medium primary schools and 0.5 staff predominantly work in Welsh-Medium primary schools. This includes the service manager/team leader. This has reduced from 5.0 FTE since 2014 due to reductions in the Welsh Education Grant and council efficiencies. There are 59 English medium primary schools and 5 Welsh-Medium primary schools in the authority. According to Welsh Government's Welsh-Medium classification, all 59 English medium schools are defined as Category 5 schools. All 5 Welsh schools are defined as Category 1, Welsh-Medium primary schools. (See Glossary for further explanation).	
1.02	The team's main objectives are to improve standards in Welsh (first and second language); to provide one coherent service to monitor, support, intervene and challenge Flintshire primary schools to raise standards in Welsh and contribute to Flintshire's Welsh in Education Strategy.	
1.03	Under the National Model for Regional Working, the Welsh Advisory Team currently remains a local authority resource but works very closely alongside GwE Challenge Advisers to ensure a coherent approach to supporting and challenging schools in relation to Welsh. The manager of the team is the authority's representative on the GwE network group with the responsibility for Welsh to ensure effective working at a regional level.	
1.04	The Welsh Advisory team provides targeted support following analysis of individual school needs which is used to create a school profile. This will include: • analysis of data; advice and guidance on school effectiveness in relation to the teaching of Welsh; • guidance on curriculum changes, implementation and delivery; • comprehensive and flexible in-service training programme by a subject specialist, which will include specific support for schools; • support for teachers and headteachers before and following an inspection; • advice and support in developing the school's self-evaluation processes in relation to Welsh; • classroom advice and support for teachers who deliver first and second language Welsh; • literacy development strategies; • support for moderation and KS2/KS3 transition; • opportunities for more able and talented pupils to extend their Welsh language skills; • support for latecomers in Welsh-Medium schools at Key Stage 2.	
1.05	The funding to support the team and its work is reliant upon the Education Improvement Grant and Flintshire's contribution, which is subject to variation year on year.	
1.06	Welsh taught in Welsh-Medium primary schools is assessed as a core subject at the end of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. Welsh second	

	language taught in English medium schools is assessed as a non-core subject at the end of Key Stage 2. The number of pupils assessed at the end of Foundation Phase in Flintshire's Welsh-Medium schools in 2016 was 118 and the number of pupils assessed at the end of Key Stage 2 was 102. This is much lower than that of other authorities across the North Wales region and contributes greatly to the fluctuation of data at the end of Key Stage assessments. In 2016 there was dip of 3.1% to 88.1% in Welsh first language in Foundation Phase after a three year upward trend. In Key Stage 2 the percentage of pupils achieving the expected level in Welsh has been dropping since 2014 to its current level of 84.3% and is a priority focus of the team and the Challenge Adviser linked to the Welsh medium schools.
1.07	There has been a strong upward trend in Welsh second language results at the end of Key Stage 2 over the last 5 years. In 2016 the figure increased to 79.4% of pupils attaining Level 4+. That position is 1.5% above Wales at Level 4+.
1.08	Training staff has been high on the team's agenda for several years and continues to be a vital element of its work. It is of paramount importance that the workforce within Flintshire's boundaries possesses the necessary language skills and appropriate methodology to deliver age appropriate and sufficiently challenging schemes of work to pupils. This will continue to be a priority to ensure that Flintshire can meet the challenges of the Welsh' Government's new Welsh Language Strategy with its highly ambitious target of creating a million Welsh speakers by 2050.
1.09	The team offers a number of courses for both Welsh-Medium and English-medium primary school staff. These training programmes have been very well received and have impacted greatly on the continuing improvement of standards at the end of Key Stage 2 in Welsh as a second language. In order to effectively use the team's limited resources, a model of working with the neighbouring authorities of Denbighshire and Conwy for some of the training has been delivered successfully for a number of years. Local training for just Flintshire schools is also delivered.
1.10	The type of training and support required for a school is assessed on an individual basis. Teachers who have undertaken Intensive Language and Methodology Courses are prioritised with post-course support from members of the team. This may be in the form of discussions with the class teacher, team teaching or demonstration sessions provided by the Welsh Advisory teacher to model best practice. Feedback from staff and Head Teachers has identified this model to be extremely effective, as it not only guides the teacher throughout the year, but also moves them gently out of their 'comfort zone' and challenges individuals carefully to further develop their teaching methodology. Some teachers were reticent initially, but as time progressed, have valued and recognised the significance of this crucial element in their training/support and acknowledged the personal progress they have made. Approximately 170 school staff received training from Welsh-Medium and English medium primary schools in 2015-2016.

1.11	Training and guidance is provided to Welsh-Medium schools when 'latecomers' transfer from English medium settings at Key Stage 2. The objective is to upskill school staff to deliver a language-focused programme over 14 weeks to these pupils, with a member of the Welsh Advisory team monitoring its delivery and impact. This intensive programme of support for the pupil rapidly increases their Welsh language skills which enables them to better access the whole curriculum and integrate more effectively.
1.12	Members of the Welsh Advisory Team are invited to join national working parties and groups relating to the development of Welsh e.g. national project on developing reading materials and the development of national exemplification material for assessment. The Team has been actively involved with the planning and implementation of a number of projects e.g.
1.13	Welsh Language Sabbatical training course for classroom assistants working in Welsh-Medium schools. This was in collaboration with Canolfan Bedwyr, Bangor University, Welsh Government and Wrexham local authority. Given the success of this pilot training programme, Welsh Government have agreed to fund the continuation of this course in 2016-2017 across the North Wales region. Involvement of the team with projects and initiatives such as these ensure that the Service can provide high quality advice and guidance to all Flintshire primary schools in relation to Welsh.
1.14	The work of the Welsh Advisory Team makes a significant contribution to the authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), particularly in relation to the targets for standards of Welsh achieved by learners and those related to the development of the workforce. The manager of the Welsh Advisory Team is one of the co-authors of the WESP, alongside the Senior Manager for School Improvement and other members of the Welsh Strategic Forum who make valuable contributions to the production of this annual plan.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Officer time.
2.02	Resources within the Education & Youth Portfolio.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None required.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Funding – The reliance on grant funding and the reduction of the grant poses a risk to the provision and effectiveness of the Service. The Service has reviewed and amended its working practices in light of recent reductions to provide as efficient model of delivery as possible, but further reductions to funding could jeopardise the impact and effectiveness of the Service.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS	
6.01	None.	
	Contact Officer: Telephone: E-mail:	Rhian Roberts, Manager Welsh Advisory Team 01352 704059 rhian.roberts@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS	
7.01	FTE – Full time equivalent	
7.02	GwE – Regional School Improvement Service for North Wales	
7.03	Defining schools according to Welsh-Medium provision - Information document No: 023/2007 – Welsh Assembly Government	
	1. Welsh-Medium Primary School Curriculum - all Pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning through the medium of Welsh. Welsh is the main teaching medium at KS2 with at least 70% of the teaching through the medium of Welsh. English is introduced formally as a subject at Key Stage 2 and is taught through the medium of English, and English may occasionally be used for some aspects of some subjects. Language of the School - Welsh is the language of the day to day business of the school. Welsh is used as the language of communication with the pupils and for the school's administration. The school communicates with parents in both languages. Outcomes - The normal expectation is that pupils, regardless of home language, will be able to transfer easily to Welsh-Medium secondary provision and by the end of Key Stage 2 will have reached a standard in English equivalent to that reached by pupils in predominantly English medium schools.	
	5. Predominantly English medium primary school Curriculum - all	

pupils in the Foundation Phase experience the areas of learning mainly through the medium of English. English is the main teaching medium at KS2. Welsh is taught as a second language in KS2, and some aspects of some subjects may be taught in Welsh. Less than 20% of the teaching is through the medium of Welsh.

Language of the School - English is the language of the day to day business of the school, but some Welsh is also used as a language of communication with the pupils with the aim of improving their capacity to use everyday Welsh. The school communicates with parents either in English or in both languages.

Outcomes - The normal expectation is that pupils will transfer to English medium secondary provision and continue to learn predominantly through the medium of English, learning Welsh as a second language.



EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 17 th November, 2016
Report Subject	14-19 Progression
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on the 13th October, 2016 recommended that a report to enable the Committee to consider establishing a Task & Finish Group to review 14-19 education progression be presented to the next meeting.

This report enables the Committee to consider if, at this time, it would be beneficial to set up a Task & Finish Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS		
1	That the Committee agree not to establish a Task & Finish Group at this time.	
2	That the Committee await the outcome of the work being undertaken by the officer working group, with a report being presented to the Committee when this work has been completed.	

1.00	EXPLAINING THE SUGGESTION OF SETTING UP A TASK & FINISH GROUP
1.01	During consideration of the School Modernisation Update at the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 13 th October, a suggestion was made that the Committee consider establishing a Task & Finish Group to review 14-19 education progression. This suggestion was made following a number of questions and comments raised around the need to gain a clearer picture on progression pathways and the advice/information given to young people and families.
1.02	Successful progression to further education, higher education and the world of work is a priority for both local and national government. Flintshire is consistently the top performance authority at post 16 progression. There is more that can be done to secure high level outcomes and further progression at 19+.
1.03	An officer working group within the Education & Youth Portfolio has already been established to identify a clear picture on progression pathways, gather all necessary data on 14-19 pupils and make recommendations on improving advice/information offered to young people and families.
1.04	Given the above, it is not considered to be a good use of Member time to duplicate the work already being carried out by officers. It is therefore proposed that the Committee receive a report on the outcome of the work undertaken by the officer working group at a future meeting.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None as a direct result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee Chairman and Chief Officer (Education & Youth) have been consulted on the report.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None as a direct result of this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESS	IBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.	
	Contact Officer: Telephone: E-mail:	Ceri Shotton 01352 702305 ceri.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk

7.0	0	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.0)1	School Modernisation – the school modernisation programme reviews and modernises the way education is delivered through a rolling programme of area reviews.





EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 17 th November, 2016
Report Subject	Forward Work Programme
Cabinet Member	Not applicable
Report Author	Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview & Scrutiny presents a unique opportunity for Members to determine the Forward Work programme of the Committee of which they are Members. By reviewing and prioritising the Forward Work Programme Members are able to ensure it is Member-led and includes the right issues. A copy of the Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration which has been updated following the last meeting.

The Committee is asked to consider, and amend where necessary, the Forward Work Programme for the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATION				
1	That the Committee considers the draft Forward Work Programme and approve/amend as necessary.			
2	That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises.			

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME			
1.01	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 Chief Officers. Other possible items are identified from the Cabinet Work Programme and the Improvement Plan.			
1.02	In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for a 'test significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range questions as follows:			
	 Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives? Is it an area of major change or risk? Are there issues of concern in performance? Is there new Government guidance of legislation? Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators/Internal Audit? 			

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None as a result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Publication of this report constitutes consultation.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None as a result of this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Current Forward Work Programme

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS		
6.01	None.		
	Contact Officer:	Ceri Shotton Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator	
	Telephone: E-mail:	01352 702305 ceri.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk	

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Improvement Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan.



CURRENT FWP

Date of meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible / Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
15 December 2016	School Meal Service	To update Members on the School Meals Service.	Assurance	Facilities Manager	8 December 2016
	School Modernisation Update	To consider the outcome of the informal consultation with the communities of Brynford, Lixwm and Rhos Helyg and identified next steps with the education review.	Consultation	Senior Manager, School Place Planning	
	Quarter 2 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report	To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Assurance/Monitoring	Education & Youth Facilitator	
	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan	To enable the Committee to consider the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan	Consultation	Senior Manager, School Improvement	
19 January 2017 Budget meeting	Draft 2017/18 Revenue Budget	To enable the Committee to consider the draft 2017/18 Revenue Budget.	Consultation	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)	12 January 2017

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	Self-Evaluation on Education Services	To enable Members to fulfil their role in relation to performance monitoring of education services.	Assurance/Monitoring	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)	
	Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)	To inform Members of the GwE Challenge and Support programme for schools.	Assurance/Monitoring	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)	
2 February 2017	Learner Outcomes – include attendance and exclusions in annual leaner outcomes report	To provide Members with a summary of learner outcomes across primary and secondary school	Assurance/Monitoring	Senior Manager, Inclusion Services	26 January 2017
16 March 2017	Quarter 3 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report	To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Assurance/Monitoring	Education & Youth Facilitator	9 March 2017
	Curriculum Reform and Pioneer Schools	To provide an update to Members.	Information sharing	Senior Manager, School Improvement	
	Incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire schools	To provide an update to Members.	For information	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)	

8 June 2017	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.	Assurance/Monitoring	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)	1 June 2017
	Quarter 4/Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report	To enable Members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Assurance/Monitoring	Education & Youth Facilitator	
13 July 2017					6 July 2017

Items to be scheduled

- School Governors following the outcome of the national governance review
- Review/monitoring report following school re-organisation September 2017
- Skilled Education Workforce Shortage Suggested by Cllr Mackie on 15 March, 2016
- ETeach System to report the conclusion of the review (recommendation from the Audit Committee on 16th March 2016)
- Transition arrangements at John Summers High School regular updates throughout the year (as suggested during the 8th September, 2016 meeting)

Suggested Workshops

- Data/Self-Evaluation workshop to be arranged following the May 2016 Local Government Elections.
- Integrated Youth Strategy January 2017

INFORMATION REPORTS TO BE CIRCULATED TO THE COMMITTEE

Item	Purpose of information report	Month
Incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire schools	Information reports on incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire schools	March
Health & Safety in Schools	Information report on accidents during the academic year and the actions taken to support schools in achieving healthy and safe environment	December

Suggested Venues for future meetings

- Hawarden High School
- Sychdyn Primary School
- Southdown Primary School
- Ysgol Parc Y Llan
- Castell Alun High School

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
January	Self-evaluation on education services	To update Members on overall service performance	Senior Manager – Inclusion & Progression
February	Learner Outcomes – include attendance and exclusions in annual leaner outcomes report	To provide Members with a summary of learner outcomes across primary and secondary school	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
November	School Balances	To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by Flintshire schools at the end of the financial year	Finance Manager
Annually	Learning from the School Performance Monitoring Group (SPMG)	To receive the annual report on progress and learning from the SPMG	Senior Manager – School Improvement

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