

Public Document Pack

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Chief Officer (Governance)
Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



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To: Cllr David Healey (Chairman)

Councillors: Janet Axworthy, Sian Braun, Bob Connah, Paul Cunningham,
Gladys Healey, Joe Johnson, Tudor Jones, Dave Mackie, Ian Smith and
Martin White

Co-opted Members:

Lynn Bartlett and Wendy White

15 October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF REMOTE MEETING
EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 21 OCTOBER, 2021 at 2.00 PM

Yours faithfully

Robert Robins
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: This will be a remote meeting and 'attendance' will be restricted to Committee Members and those Members of Council who have asked the Head of Democratic Services for an invitation. Such attendees may only speak at the Chair's discretion.

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire-public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact a member of the Democratic Services Team on 01352 702345.

A G E N D A

1 **APOLOGIES**

Purpose: To receive any apologies.

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

Purpose: To receive any Declarations and advise Members accordingly.

3 **MINUTES** (Pages 5 - 12)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th September 2021.

4 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING** (Pages 13 - 22)

Report of Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator

Purpose: To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Education Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and to inform the Committee of progress against actions from previous meetings.

5 **SCHOOL HOLIDAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME REVIEW** (Pages 23 - 28)

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

Purpose: To provide the Committee with an overview of the SHEP Summer Programme and its contribution to the poverty priorities within the Council Plan.

6 **ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION** (Pages 29 - 48)

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

Purpose: To provide the Committee with an update on the levels of pupils being Electively Home Educated and the Council's oversight of this group of learners.

7 **THE IMPACT THE PANDEMIC HAS HAD ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Purpose: To receive a verbal update to provide assurance to the Committee on the highlighted recovery objective considered at a recent meeting of the Recovery Committee.

8 THE RESILIENCE OF SCHOOLS IN MANAGING A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF CHANGES

Purpose: To receive a verbal update to provide assurance to the Committee on the highlighted recovery objective considered at a recent meeting of the Recovery Committee.

Please note that there may be a 10 minute adjournment of this meeting if it lasts longer than two hours

Procedural Note on the conduct of meetings

The Chair will open the meeting and introduce themselves.

The meeting will be attended by a number of Councillors. Officers will also be in attendance to present reports, with Democratic Services officers acting as hosts of the meeting.

All attendees are asked to ensure their mobile phones are switched off and that any background noise is kept to a minimum.

All microphones are to be kept muted during the meeting and should only be unmuted when invited to speak by the Chair. When invitees have finished speaking they should go back on mute.

To indicate to speak, Councillors will use the chat facility or use the electronic raise hand function. The chat function may also be used for questions, relevant comments and officer advice and updates.

The Chair will call the speakers, with elected Members addressed as 'Councillor' and officers addressed by their job title e.g. Chief Executive' or name. From time to time, the officer advising the Chair will explain procedural points or suggest alternative wording for proposals, to assist the Committee.

If and when a vote is taken, the Chair will explain that only those who oppose the proposal(s), or who wish to abstain will need to indicate, using the chat function. The officer advising the Chair will indicate whether the proposals are carried.

If a more formal vote is needed, this will be by roll call – where each Councillor will be asked in turn (alphabetically) how s/he wishes to vote

At County Council and Planning Committee meetings speaker's times are limited. A bell will be sounded to alert that the speaker has one minute remaining

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. A recording of the meeting will also be available, shortly after the meeting at <https://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **16 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held on Thursday 16 September 2021.

PRESENT: Councillor David Healey (Chair)

Councillors: Janet Axworthy, Bob Connah, Paul Cunningham, Gladys Healey, Dave Mackie, Joe Johnson, Tudor Jones, Dave Mackie, Ian Smith and Martin White

CO-OPTED MEMBER:

Lynn Bartlett

APOLOGIES: Councillor Sian Braun and Mrs Wendy White

CONTRIBUTORS:

Councillor Ian Roberts, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education; Councillor Christine Jones, Deputy Leader of the Council (Partnerships) & Cabinet Member for Social Services; Councillor Paul Johnson, Cabinet Member for Finance, Social Value and Procurement; Chief Executive; Chief Officer (Education & Youth); Senior Manager (School Improvement); Senior Manager (Inclusion and Progression) Corporate Finance Manager and Strategic Finance Manager (For agenda item 5 and 6)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Education Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Support Officer

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

There were no declarations of interest.

15. MINUTES

The minutes of the joint meeting held on 17 June and the ordinary meeting held on 1 July, 2021 were received.

The minutes of the joint meeting held on 17 June were approved, as moved and seconded by Councillor Tudor Jones and Councillor Paul Cunningham.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July were approved, as moved and seconded by Councillor Paul Cunningham and Councillor Janet Axworthy.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

16. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

The Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented the report and confirmed that the Forward Work Programme had been populated since the last meeting of the Committee. She drew Members attention to the report on Elective Home Education, scheduled to be presented at the next meeting of the Committee, which had been added to the Forward Work Programme, following a request from Councillor Gladys Healey at a recent meeting.

The Facilitator suggested amendments to the Forward Work Programme, which included a verbal update at the next meeting which would cover the portfolio risks identified by the Recovery Committee around the impact of the pandemic on children and young people on their health and emotional wellbeing and the resilience in schools whilst managing a significant number changes. It was also suggested that an update report on the successful delivery of the Flintshire Play schemes and Welsh Government funded Summer of Fun programme be reported to the December meeting. The Committee supported the addition of the suggested items.

The Facilitator also provided information on the two ongoing actions, as outlined in appendix 2 of the report.

In response to questions on the report on Elective Home Education, the Chief Officer confirmed that the report would provide information of the numbers of pupils currently being electively home educated together with the Council's Statutory Responsibilities and an overview of how the Inclusion Welfare Service discharges the Council's function with regard to these pupils. The report would also provide a broad overview of the reasons why parents had made the decision to electively home educate their children.

The recommendations, as outlined within the report, were moved and seconded by Councillor Paul Cunningham and Councillor Tudor Jones.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be noted;
- (b) 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; and
- (c) That the progress made in completing the outstanding actions be noted.

17. BUDGET 2022/23 – STAGE 2

The Chief Executive, Corporate Finance Manager and Chief Officer (Education & Youth) introduced the second budget stage report which detailed the forecast and the cost pressures which would make-up the total budget requirement.

A report to Cabinet and the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee in July provided an updated position on the budget for 2022/23. The cost pressures identified were referred to the respective Overview & Scrutiny Committees with a request that they all undergo a rigorous review. The details of the cost pressures for Education and Youth were included in the report.

The Chief Executive, Corporate Finance Manager and Chief Officer (Education & Youth) provided a detailed presentation which covered the following areas:-

- Purpose and Background
- Summary Totals of Cost Pressures
 - Education & Youth Pressures
 - School Budget Pressures
- Summary of all Cost Pressures
- Out of County Budget Pressure
- Strategic Solutions
- Update on Efficiencies
- Budget Timelines

In response to comments and questions around funding for free schools meals, the Chief Officer confirmed that the challenges to purchase a meal and a snack had been highlighted by students and it was hoped that if there was flexibility within the budget to uplift this, it would be very much welcomed. The situation in primary schools was that meals were prepared from a number of options. At the secondary level it was more of a cafeteria style with more choices available for the young people. The pressure on children at not being able to purchase the same as their peers made them feel different with less money in their credit account. The Chief Officer also confirmed that NEWydd were very skilled in providing excellent food which met the standard nutritional requirements. An uplift for the secondary aged pupils would be beneficial.

The Chief Executive reported that an increase in free school meal allowance had been included within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), to increase the allowance subject to affordability. He welcomed the cost pressures at Plas Derwen PRU, which were aspirations to improve the learning environment and provide greater capacity. Regarding the cost pressures for new posts, this had been circulated to all portfolios to provide information on their critical needs for which a robust process had been undertaken to prioritise those which required serious consideration. The pandemic had accentuated some of the gaps but these would be reviewed if a balanced budget was not achieved next year.

Councillor Dave Mackie supported the comments made by the Chief Officer around the uplift in free school meals, which had been raised as a concern by young people at meetings of the Children's Services Forum. He commented on cost pressures and said that some of them had been agreed during the setting of the 2021/22 budget and suggested that where cost pressures had been agreed in previous years, this should be indicated in the reports. The Chief Executive suggested that future reports be adjusted to include pre-agreed decisions and new cost pressures for the 2022/23 budget.

Councillor Janet Axworthy commented on the cost pressures for the Joint Archive Service and said that it was disappointing that the recent lottery bid had been unsuccessful. She hoped that future bids would be successful as this was such an important initiative within the Council. The Chair asked if there had been any feedback on the lottery bid. The Chief Officer agreed that the unsuccessful bid had been disappointing but provided an assurance that the bid was excellent and that nothing more could have been done to improve the bid but unfortunately there had been insufficient national funds available.

The Chair commented on discussion held between the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the WG around the settlement for teacher's pay. He said that the decision for 1% of the increase to be funded locally had financial implications on the Council and schools and sought clarification on how this would be funded. He also asked if WG had indicated if they would be fully funding green book pay awards.

In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that 1% of the increase would be funded between schools and the Council. Moving forward, work had to be carried out on how future pay awards would be funded but for the remainder of 2021/22 it would be funding through the reserves with the full recurring amount going into the base budget. He reiterated that the Council's position was to expect Governments to fully fund pay awards particularly WG as it was a devolved issue. He also confirmed that there was no additional funding for the green book pay awards in the current financial year as this was still under negotiation and not complete.

The Leader of the Council commented on previous statements from WG that the introduction of the Additional Learning Needs Bill would be cost neutral and that this had not been the case. At a recent meeting with the WLGA and WG concerned had been raised again around providing necessary funding to meet the requirements of the Bill. He also provided information the extensive discussions between the WLGA and WG around pay awards and the WG expected Local Authorities to prepare calculations in anticipation of the pay awards agreed. He said that it was difficult to anticipate what figure the independent review panel was likely to put forward and when the award would be announced.

Councillor Mackie commented on the investment in delegated school budgets, as outlined within the report and presentation. He said that the additional £1M allocated within the 2021/22 budget had been welcomed and he fully appreciated that its purpose had been linked to the Estyn Inspection recommendation that the reduction in school budget deficits was managed more effectively. He said that he was unsure how the additional £1M cost pressure for the 2022/23 budget would be allocated to schools and asked why it was felt necessary to include an additional £1M.

In response, the Chief Executive explained that there were two £1M allocations, £1M within the 2021/22 budget and £1M proposed within the 2022/23 budget. He was pleased the Council was in a position to have any additional money available within the budget before decisions were made on how it was spent. Last year's £1M for 2021/22 remained the same for 2122/23 and the proposals were how this extra £1M could be used from next April. He said that its predominant purpose

was to support secondary schools with recurring deficits and/or secondary schools that could move into an increasing deficit position. The Chief Executive added that the amount which was put in last year recurred and was in the base budget for this year. The additional £1M, if supported, would be used to reduce deficits as per the Estyn recommendation.

The Leader of the Council echoed the Chief Executive's comments and explained that it was for all Members of the Council to decide whether the proposed additional £1M would be included within the 2022/23 budget. He said that was pleased to see that the number of secondary schools in a surplus budget position was improving.

Councillor Mackie sought clarification on what the £1M investment in delegated schools budget would be used for and felt that this information was necessary to enable Members to support the budget setting process. The Chief Executive explained that it was very early in the budget setting process and that the proposed £1M additional funding may not be included in the final budget proposals if it was not affordable. Prior to setting the budget, information on how this additional funding would be allocated would be provided to all Members.

The Chair thanked the Committee and officers for the detailed discussion around the proposed cost pressures outlined within the report.

Following discussion on the recommendations outlined within the report, it was suggested that the Committee support the portfolio cost pressures and that no further cost efficiency areas be proposed. It was also suggested that further information on how the proposed £1M investment in delegated school budgets is disseminated to Schools be provided to the Committee.

The recommendations, as outlined above, were moved and seconded by Councillor Dave Mackie and Councillor Paul Cunningham.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee supports the Education and Youth Portfolio cost pressures;
- (b) That no further cost efficiency areas be proposed by the Committee to be explored further; and
- (c) That further information on how the proposed £1M Investment in Delegated School Budgets is disseminated to Schools be provided to the Committee.

18. SCHOOL RESERVES YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

The Chief Officer (Education & Youth) presented the report which provided information on the overall level of reserves held by Flintshire schools. The level of school reserves had increased across all sectors and was in part due to the number of additional grants being awarded to schools in recognition of the issues caused by the pandemic. These grants were awarded at a late stage during the financial year and inflated the level of school reserves.

Councillor Dave Mackie commented on previous discussions around the revised school funding formula and felt that a revised version would ensure that the formula was easier to understand. He raised concerns around the difference in funding for schools which had similar pupil numbers and suggested that because of this, the funding allocated and total funding available should be reviewed to ensure that there wasn't such a difference in funding in different counties across Wales. The Leader of the Council said that it was not possible compare funding for similar sized schools across different counties in Wales as there could be a number of reasons for the difference. In Flintshire, every secondary school pupil was treated the same except for those with additional needs. He added that a raw data comparison based on pupil numbers would depend on the type of county, with larger schools in urban areas. Smaller rural schools were vital to provide education for pupils in the areas they lived.

The Chief Executive agreed with the Leader comments and advised that the Council's biggest expenditure was on education. Flintshire remained a lower funded Council and if this increased then it would be possible to increase spend per pupil. Despite this, the Council had increased funding where possible with limited resources.

The recommendation, as outlined within the report, was moved and seconded by Councillor Janet Axworthy and Councillor Ian Smith.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the level of school reserves as at the 31st March, 2021, as outlined within the report.

19. COVID-19 SCHOOLS OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The Chief Executive introduced the report which detailed the arrangements for the safe return to schools, as outlined in the revised Welsh Government (WG) Covid-19 Operational Guidance and Local Covid-19 Infection Decision Framework.

The Senior Manager (School Improvement) reported that the Education Minister had advised all schools at the end of the summer term that the guiding principle for September was that they should operate as normally as possible including the provision of free breakfast and after school clubs, extra-curricular activities and practical subjects. The detailed operational guidance for schools had been slimmed down and was being replaced by a Local Covid-19 Infection Decision Framework. The Framework enabled interventions to be tailored to the level of local risk and schools were expected to transition to this new Framework by 20 September, 2021.

All Flintshire schools opened successfully at the start of the new academic year with schools continuing to have detailed risk assessments in place to ensure a suitable hierarchy of controls. These were now being amended to align with the new Framework.

The Chair welcomed the comments made by the Chief Officer (Education & Youth) at a recent Recovery Committee meeting around the low number of teaching and ancillary staff absences, which had been positive. He said that he had been apprehensive of pupils returning to school but was pleased that the term had started positively.

Councillor Dave Mackie suggested that the Committee show its appreciation of the school leadership, which had been enabled pupils to return to schools safely. He commented on schools taking a more lenient approach in order to support learners during the pandemic but felt that moving forward, schools had to re-install discipline in a nurturing way and support parents to ensure this happened. The Facilitator confirmed that during the next meeting, the Committee would provide a verbal update on the impact the pandemic had had on young people specifically on their health and well-being and their ability to engage with learning.

The Senior Manager (Inclusion and Progression) responded to the comments made by Councillor Mackie and outlined that schools had worked extremely hard to keep parents informed on current Covid-19 restrictions in schools. Reassurances on the measures placed in schools were also provided to parents. The council's wider services had also worked to keep parents updated on processes, providing advice on benefits and support accessing IT across the Council Services.

Councillor Gladys Healey referred to the pressures on children and young people which now included vaccination with the proposals to vaccinate children 12 years and over. As pupils were now able to provide their own consent was this adding to their pressures. In response, the Chief Executive said that this was an ethical question balancing this with the Human Rights Act and Children's Legal Rights. His understanding was that it would be vaccinators or GPs who would decide if a pupil was able to give consent. This was beyond the Council's control.

In response to Councillor Mackie's comments, Councillor Gladys Healey suggested that a letter be written to all Schools by the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanking them for their hard work in ensuring pupils returned to school safely. This suggestion was supported by the Committee.

The recommendation, as outlined within the report, was moved and seconded by Councillor Bob Connah and Councillor Martin White.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the arrangements for the safe return to schools as outlined in the revised Welsh Government Covid-19 Operational Guidance and Local Covid-19 Infection Decision Framework.

20. ESTYN THEMATIC REVIEW UPDATE

The Senior Manager (School Improvement) presented the report which provided details of the five key recommendation for the Welsh Government (WG) and Councils to address following the thematic review of the work undertaken by the education departments of each Council in Wales to support their learning

communities in schools and pupil referral units (PRU's) during the period from March to October 2020.

Flintshire's first review letter, received in January 2021, had been very positive. During the summer term of 2021, Estyn conducted follow up reviews with all Councils in Wales to consider the progress being made against their initial recommendations in the national thematic review. The review culminated in a second letter to the Chief Executive which provided a high degree of assurance that the Portfolio had continued to work effectively through its own resources and through its support for schools in partnership with GwE. A copy of the letter, which contained feedback on the Council's response to the five recommendations was attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

The Senior Manager concluded that the thematic review had captured the positive changes around digital and blended learning and the progress made towards the new curriculum.

The Chief Executive welcomed the letter which he said had provided a level of assurance. The Chair echoed the comments made and said that schools should be commended for the work undertaken.

The recommendations, as outlined within the report, were moved and seconded by Councillor Dave Mackie and Councillor Janet Axworthy.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee acknowledge the effective work of the Education Portfolio, in conjunction with the regional school improvement service (GwE), in ensuring Flintshire learners continued to receive effective educational provision through the Covid-19 pandemic; and
- (b) That the Committee note the positive progress made against each of the five Estyn recommendations in the national thematic review by the Education Portfolio and schools.

21. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 4.04 pm)

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Chairman



EDUCATION YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 21 st October 2021
Report Subject	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking
Report Author	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 & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The report also shows actions arising from previous meetings of the Education Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the progress made in completing them. Any outstanding actions will be continued to be reported to the Committee as shown in Appendix 2.

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.
3	That the Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding actions.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING
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	<p>In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives?2. Is it an area of major change or risk?3. Are there issues of concern in performance?4. Is there new Government guidance of legislation?5. Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators/Internal Audit?6. Is the issue of Public or Member concern?
1.03	In previous meetings, requests for information, reports or actions have been made. These have been summarised as action points. Following a meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee in July 2018, it was recognised that there was a need to formalise such reporting back to Overview & Scrutiny Committees, as 'Matters Arising' was not an item which can feature on an agenda.
1.04	It was suggested that the 'Action tracking' approach be trialled for the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Following a successful trial, it was agreed to extend the approach to all Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
1.05	The Action Tracking details including an update on progress is attached at Appendix 2.

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

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	In some cases, action owners have been contacted to provide an update on their actions.

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

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Forward Work Programme Appendix 2 – Action Tracking for the Education Youth & Culture OSC.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Minutes of previous meetings of the Committee as identified in Appendix 2. Contact Officer: Ceri Shotton Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator Telephone: 01352 702305 E-mail: 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.

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CURRENT FWP

Date of meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible / Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
<p>Thursday 2nd December, 2021</p> <p>2.00pm</p> <p>Representative from CQ High to be invited</p> <p>Page 17</p>	<p>Mid-Year Council Plan Monitoring Report 2020/21</p> <p>Supporting Service Children in Education Update</p> <p>Flintshire Summer of Fun and Summer Playschemes</p>	<p>To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities, performance levels and current risk levels as identified in the Council Plan.</p> <p>To provide the Committee with an update on how Flintshire schools are supporting service children.</p> <p>To provide the Committee on the successful delivery of the Summer Playschemes and the Welsh Government funded Summer of Fun programme</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p> <p>Assurance Monitoring</p> <p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator</p> <p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth)</p> <p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth)</p>	
<p>Thursday 3rd February, 2022</p> <p>2.00pm</p>	<p>School Modernisation Update</p> <p>Learner Outcomes 2021</p>	<p>To provide Members with an update on the School Modernisation Programme</p> <p>To provide Members with a summary of learner outcomes across primary and secondary schools for 2021</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p> <p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth)</p> <p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth)</p>	

	Learner Outcome Assessment Processes for 2022	To provide Members with an overview of the examination and assessment arrangements for Summer 2022.	Assurance Monitoring	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)	
Thursday 24th March, 2022 2.00pm Page 18	Self Evaluation of Education Services 2021-22	To update Members on overall service performance	Assurance Monitoring	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)	
	Community Asset Transfer Update	To provide an annual update on the Business Plan for Holywell Leisure Centre and Cambrian Aquatics	Assurance Monitoring	Chief Officer (Housing & Assets)	
	School Attendance and Exclusion	To provide the Committee with an update on learner attendance and exclusions for Flintshire Schools	Assurance Monitoring	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)	
Thursday 16th June, 2022 2.00pm					
Thursday 30th June, 2022 Joint meeting with Social & Health Care OSC 2.00pm					

Thursday 14th July, 2022 2.00pm	Annual Report from Regional School Improvement Service, GwE	To receive an update on the support provided by the regional school effectiveness and improvement service, GWE and its impact on schools	Assurance Monitoring	Chief Officer (Education & Youth) and Managing Director of GwE	
	Social Media and Internet Safety	To provide Members with an update on the Portfolio's Social Media and Internet Safety policy and provision	Assurance Monitoring	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)	

INFORMATION REPORTS TO BE CIRCULATED TO THE COMMITTEE

Page	Item	Purpose of information report	Month
19	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

REGULAR ITEMS

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
	School Modernisation	To update Members on the progress made with School Modernisation	Senior Manager School Planning & Provision
February	Self-evaluation on education services	To update Members on overall service performance	Interim Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
April	Learner Outcomes – include attendance and exclusions in annual learner outcomes report	To provide Members with a summary of learner outcomes across primary and secondary school	Interim Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
June	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.	Interim Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
December	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;
Annually	Social Media & Internet Safety	To receive an annual report assurance/monitoring	Healthy Schools Practitioner
	Class Size Grant	To receive a regular update on how the Class Sizes Grant from Welsh Government was being used and how this aligned to the School Modernisation Programme	Senior Manager School Planning & Provision

ACTION TRACKING FOR THE EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda item	Action Required	Action Officer(s)	Action taken	Timescale
01.07.2021	6. Social Media and Internet Safety	Cllr David Healey referred to the Notice of Motion which went to Council in 2019, where all Members signed up to a pledge that they would not themselves engage in social media in ways which denigrates other individuals. He asked how Members could re-affirm this pledge. The Learning Advisor suggested that this and online bullying be promoted to form part of the new academic year and included in schools newsletters, twitter, websites etc. and said the authority's communication team could promote this further to make a stance on cyber bullying which was very important. This suggestion was supported by the Committee.	Claire Sinnott / Ceri Shotton	Claire Sinnott is working on a council pledge on the Flintshire website and videos with pledges as an organisational wide concept. Working towards November time frame in line with anti-bullying week commencing 15 th November.	On-going
16.09.2021	4. Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	The Committee supported the suggestion that a verbal item on the 2 outstanding risks referred to the Committee by the Recovery Committee be added to the agenda for the next meeting scheduled for 21 st October.	Claire Homard / Ceri Shotton	Added for consideration on agenda for 21.10.21 meeting.	Completed

ACTION TRACKING

APPENDIX 2

16.09.21	4. Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	The Committee supported the suggestion that a report on 'Flintshire Summer of Fun and Summer Playschemes' be added to the agenda for the meeting scheduled for 2 nd December.	Claire Homard / Ceri Shotton	Added to FWP for 02.12.21 meeting.	Completed
16.09.21	7. Covid-19 Schools Operational Update	In response to Councillor Mackie's comments, Councillor Gladys Healey suggested that a letter be written to all Schools by the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanking them for their hard work in ensuring pupils returned to school safely. This suggestion was supported by the Committee.	Cllr David Healey	Letter circulated to schools.	Completed



EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 21 st October 2021
Report Subject	School Holiday Enrichment Programme Review
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been developed to provide Members with an overview of the approach taken to deliver the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) 'Food and Fun' during the summer holiday period.

This is the third year that the programme has been delivered in Flintshire and its most successful to date, reinforcing the positive impact strong partnership working can have within communities.

Over 160 children and young people aged 5-12 years have benefited from SHEP this summer in 6 schools, with over 2000 meals served during the 12 day programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	The Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the progress of the SHEP Programme.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME
1.01	The School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) 'Food and Fun' are local school-based schemes, delivered by school staff and other key partners, which provide healthy meals, food and nutrition education and physical activity to children in a fun, social environment during the school summer holidays.

1.02	<p>SHEP was first piloted in Wales in 2016 with 10 schools. By 2021 there were 140 SHEP programmes delivered across 21 local authorities, in all 7 local health boards.</p> <p>Flintshire first participated in SHEP in 2018 with 2 schools which increased to 4 schools in 2019. In 2020 SHEP was suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic and resumed in 2021 with 6 schools engaged.</p> <p>The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) oversee the programme nationally and locally a steering group has been in place since 2017. Funding is made available via an application process which is awarded once the programmes have been delivered.</p>
1.03	<p>Local authority maintained schools are eligible to apply for SHEP funding if their Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility, for pupils aged 5 to 15 years is 16% or greater. Schools must be able to staff and resource SHEP for a minimum of 12 days over at least 3 consecutive weeks of the school summer holidays. The same cohort of up to 40 children should be encouraged to attend all 12 days.</p> <p>All eligible schools in Flintshire were invited to an information workshop in March 2021 to understand more about the scheme. Thereafter 6 schools agreed to deliver the programme in July – August 2021.</p> <p>Ysgol Treffynnon and Queensferry Primary School had successfully delivered the programme in previous years and this summer Ysgol Maesglas, Ysgol Bryn Garth, Ysgol Bryn Gwalia and Connah’s Quay High School delivered the programme for the first time.</p> <p>One SHEP Co-ordinator and SHEP Assistant were identified at each school and were required to complete the Nutrition Skills for Life Level 2 Community Food and Nutrition Skills qualification via attendance at planned training during May and June. Safeguarding training, first aid and food hygiene training were also required to be up to date for the purposes of these roles.</p>
1.04	<p>SHEP was open to current Year 6 pupils and existing Year 7 pupils at Ysgol Treffynnon & Connah’s Quay High sites. By utilising the transition approach children were able to form relationships with peers from other feeder primary schools, get to know existing Year 7 pupils and some of the school staff, as well as familiarise themselves with the school building before the new school term started in September.</p> <p>Queensferry, Ysgol Bryn Garth, Ysgol Bryn Gwalia and Maesglas all offered SHEP to Key Stage 2 pupils which enabled the children to connect with other pupils and staff that they may not necessarily do in a regular school day.</p>
1.05	<p>SHEP took place 9.00am – 1.00pm four days each week from Monday 19th July until Thursday 5th August 2021. Each day would commence with a healthy breakfast, followed by a programme of physical activity and Nutrition Education sessions, alongside creative play and enrichment. Healthy snacks and lunch were provided.</p>

	<p>SHEP coordinators were required to devise a three week timetable which incorporated the following core elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally endorsed Food and Nutrition Education Sessions • A minimum of one hour of physical activity daily • Healthy breakfast and lunch provided by the school catering service <p>SHEP Coordinators were able to devise their own timetables to best suit the needs of their children and young people and utilise resources already available to them, including school staff, local community groups and specialists.</p> <p>In addition to the opportunities for physical activity each day, there was a broad variety of enrichment activities on offer which included; cookery, first aid, mindfulness and wood work. Craft activities included making dream catchers, lava lamps from recycled bottles and graffiti name plaques were also some of the experiences enjoyed by the participants.</p>
1.06	<p>The SHEP programme is delivered across Wales using a partnership approach involving schools, health professionals, local authorities and community sports staff. In Flintshire this consists of Aura Leisure, NEWydd Catering, BCUHB Dieticians and coordinated by the Healthy Schools team.</p> <p>Aura Leisure committed to delivering a programme of structured sporting activities and interactive games at each school. Sport Development staff introduced 17 different sports during the course of the programme. The most popular sports this year were dodge ball, tennis and rugby which were enjoyed by boys and girls alike. 94% of the children who took part in the sessions said that they had the opportunity to try a new sport that they would like to try again.</p> <p>NEWydd Catering provided all the food provision at each school, offering a healthy breakfast, snack and lunch each day. The meals were prepared in the kitchen at Ysgol Treffynnon and transported to all 6 sites.</p> <p>Approximately 2000 meals were distributed to children over the 12 days. 88% of children surveyed ate breakfast when attending SHEP compared with 64% on days the programme was not running. 97% ate lunch in SHEP compared to 71% on days the programme was not running.</p> <p>Parents of children attending SHEP and their siblings have in previous years been invited into school once each week to attend a family lunch but due to Covid-19 restrictions this was not possible this year. However, as an alternative means of parental engagement NEWydd provided six healthy and delicious recipe cards, together with all of the ingredients required. This approach encouraged families to take part in cooking activities with their children at home.</p> <p>The Public Health Wales Dieticians provided training to SHEP Coordinators and/or Assistants staff which enabled them to gain an accreditation in Nutrition Skills for Life Level 2 Community Food and Nutrition Skills qualification. The dietetics team also provided schools with the appropriate resources to enable delivery of the required nutrition education sessions. All the nutrition activities have been developed</p>

	<p>specifically for the SHEP programme, including extension activities for literacy, oracy and numeracy skills. The dieticians observed staff deliver two nutrition sessions at each school in order to quality assure the sessions.</p> <p>95% of the children and young people reported that they understood more about being healthy after participating in the nutrition sessions whilst 85% said they tried a new food for the first time.</p> <p>The Healthy Schools team provided ongoing support for all SHEP coordinators and worked alongside the external partners in order to fulfil the SHEP criteria. Healthy Schools is the main contact with the WLGA and manages the funding and coordination of the programme on behalf of the local authority. Visits were made to each site to quality assure each SHEP programme of delivery.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	SHEP is funded by the Welsh Government. For this year's programme funding of £4.85 million was allocated. Each participating school had a budget of £10,000 to deliver the programme for up to 40 children and young people.
2.02	The Welsh Government have not confirmed funding beyond 2021.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>Steering Group</p> <p>The Flintshire SHEP steering group was established in 2017 to oversee the coordination and delivery of the programme in Flintshire schools in line with the WLGA criteria. The group consists of officers from Education, NEWydd, Aura, BCUHB Dietetics, Family Information Service, Revenues and Benefits and Play.</p>

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	<p>A national questionnaire for children participating in the SHEP Food and Fun programme and their parents was provided by WLGA. All children and parents were encouraged to complete the questionnaire during the final week of the programme. Responses have been uploaded in full to WLGA to inform their national evaluation report.</p> <p>Initial findings following local analysis of the responses found:</p> <p>92% of children surveyed expressed how attending SHEP made their summer holiday more enjoyable whilst 66% said that it has given them more confidence to try something new.</p>

	<p>82% of parents reported that by accessing SHEP they were better able to meet their financial costs of the summer holidays and 76% said that it had a positive impact on managing work/leave/children.</p> <p>62% of children reported to being more active on SHEP days than non SHEP days whilst 56% admitted to mainly watching TV, play computer or use tablet/phone on non SHEP days.</p> <p>96% surveyed at the end of the three week programme said that they took part in a new activity that they would like to try again.</p>
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5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>National list of SHEP Food and Fun schools 2021 https://www.wlga.wales/SharedFiles/Download.aspx?pageid=62&mid=665&fileid=3122</p> <p>Food and Fun ‘Working Together’ PowerPoint https://www.wlga.wales/SharedFiles/Download.aspx?pageid=62&mid=665&fileid=2430</p> <p>Evaluation of the School Holiday Enrichment Programme (SHEP) 2019 https://www.wlga.wales/SharedFiles/Download.aspx?pageid=62&mid=665&fileid=2844</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Claire Sinnott, Learning Advisor – Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding Telephone: 01352 704054 E-mail: Claire.sinnott@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>SHEP - School Holiday Enrichment Programme. WLGA - Welsh Local Government Association. BCUHB - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.</p>

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EDUCATION YOUTH AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 21 st October, 2021
Report Subject	Elective Home Education
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The number of children who are electively home educated (EHE) is steadily rising across Wales. At the end of the academic year 2020/21, Flintshire had 173 children out of a total school population of 23,378 who were recorded as being EHE.

This report provides an overview of EHE picture across Flintshire and the role undertaken by the Council with regards to monitoring and support.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members are reassured about the Council's discharge of its duties in relation to Elective Home Education.
2	Members acknowledge the challenges faced by the Education Welfare Team in fulfilling their statutory functions with rising numbers of EHE pupils in Flintshire.
3	Members to reinforce the need for continued financial support from Welsh Government to further develop and secure the Council's services and support in relation to Elective Home Education.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION
1.01	<p>Whilst education for children aged 5 – 16 years is compulsory in Wales, access to that education at a school is not. Parents of compulsory age children have a duty under Section 7 of the Education Act (1996) to ensure that their child/ren receive an ‘efficient full-time education suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and special needs, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise’.</p> <p>The majority of children in Wales receive their education at school, but a small number of parents exercise their right to educate their children themselves which is referred to as Elective Home Education (EHE).</p>
1.02	<p>There has been a steady rise nationally in the number of children whose parents have chosen to electively home educate across Wales over the last few years. National data included in Appendix 1, shows that the numbers in Flintshire have increased from 95 in 2018 to 157 in January 2021, in line with the Welsh median (Figure 1). This figure rose to 173 by the end of the last academic year and currently sits at 155 with the reduction due to a large number of the cohort having been Year 11 and a further 7 pupils returning to school. Figure 3 shows the rate of EHE per 1000 children; in Flintshire, the rate has risen from 4.6 in 2018 to 7.5 in 2021, which sits below the Welsh average of 9.5 children per 1000.</p>
1.03	<p>Parents may decide to home-educate their child from a very early age and so the child may not previously have been enrolled at school. They may also elect to home-educate at any other point up to the end of compulsory school age. The majority of children who became EHE in 2021 had been attending a Flintshire maintained school (92%) with the remaining 8% having previously been educated outside of the authority (Figure 6). Similar to the picture across Wales, the highest percentage of children becoming EHE takes place in September (Figure 8) and that Year 7 seems to be a pivotal point at which this decision is taken.</p>
1.04	<p>Parents are not required to register or seek approval from the LA to home-educate their children. Where a reason was provided for choosing EHE, the vast majority (50%) referenced parental choice/lifestyle. Covid-19 has been provided as a reason for 19% of EHE pupils which was either related to a level of anxiety in attending school because of the virus or the fact that the child had made good progress and was benefiting from being educated at home. A further 11% referenced pupil anxiety as the reason. Other reasons included travelling (Gypsy/Traveller community), medical needs, bullying, disputes with schools and special educational needs.</p>
1.05	<p>Councils are not responsible for the provision of EHE or under any statutory obligation to support it financially. However, under section 436A of the Education Act 1996, Councils do have a duty to make arrangements to identify children not receiving a suitable education. The duty applies in relation to children of compulsory school age who are not on a school roll and who are not receiving a suitable education otherwise than being in school (e.g. at home, privately or in alternative provision). A school attendance order (SAO) applies in cases when a parent of a child of</p>

	<p>compulsory school age fails to prove that the child is receiving suitable education and where the Council believes the child should attend school. The Council therefore has a monitoring role in respect of EHE to ensure that the child is receiving a suitable education. In the absence of the requirement to inform the Council that a child is being home educated, monitoring can only take place with those families from whom we have received notification.</p>
1.06	<p>The monitoring role placed on the Council is carried out by the Education Welfare Service in Flintshire. Annual visits are undertaken by the team to review the education provision being made although parents are not required to follow the national curriculum. This team are also experienced in matters of welfare and safeguarding which supports the potential identification of these issues during their visits. Parents currently have the right to refuse access to the home or for the child to be seen under the 1996 Education Act;. It is important to note that a report commissioned by the National Independent Safeguarding Board in 2017 indicated that EHE children were not necessarily more likely to suffer abuse or neglect as compared to the general population but that EHE did potentially make those who were more subject to this, more difficult to identify or protect.</p>
1.07	<p>Until 2020, councils did not receive any additional funding to support EHE in Wales but this has changed in response to the increasing numbers. Flintshire received approximately £14k in 2020/21 to provide support to parents to educate their children and this has increased to approx. £27k for this financial year. A further £50k has been received for 2021/22 to support the Council to discharge its existing duties and this has been used to fund a dedicated officer to perform this function. This has facilitated a review of current procedures and the opportunity to increase the contact and engagement with our EHE community. A questionnaire was circulated to families on the 1st October 2021 and the information received will be used to inform and guide our future actions. A further aim is to enhance our access to, and understanding of, the learner voice with regards to their provision. As yet, there is no indication whether this level of funding will be sustained in future years to continue this work.</p>
1.08	<p>WG policy on EHE has been under review for a number of years now. Flintshire has representation on the All Wales EHE forum and is actively contributing to the discussion and future development in this area.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Previously there had been no WG funding attached to EHE to support the Council to discharge its duties or support families to educate their children. The receipt of £76,386 for this financial year has been welcomed particularly in light of the increasing numbers of EHE children. It will be difficult to maintain our level of engagement with families through the positive development of a dedicated officer if this funding is not forthcoming in future years.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Impact assessment is not required as the report is for information only.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	EHE questionnaires circulated to all EHE parents on the 1 st October 2021.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – WG EHE Data 2021.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	WG Elective Home Education Guidance

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Jeanette Rock Senior Manager Inclusion & Progression Telephone: 01352 704017 E-mail: jeanette.rock@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Elective Home Education: when parents educate their children at home instead of sending them to a school.</p> <p>National Curriculum: a common programme of study that is designed to ensure uniformity of content and standards in education.</p> <p>School Attendance Order (SAO): applies in cases when a parent of a child of compulsory school age fails to prove that the child is receiving suitable education and where the authority believes the child should attend school. A SAO may be used to direct a parent to send their child to a specified school, and should be used when a pupil is not on roll at any school.</p>

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Saesneg | English ▼

Home education data collection

26 January 2021

This report presents information about the cohort of home educated children recorded by the 22 local authorities (LAs) in Wales as their current known population on the census date of 26 January 2021.

Aggregate data is presented at Wales level, as well as at LA level where appropriate. Local authorities were asked to provide as much information as they could about their cohort of home educated children as at 26 January 2021, however some information was "unknown" (i.e. either not collected or refused) for some cases or in some LAs. Base figures are reported alongside these figures for clarity.

This is the fourth year that this information has been collected and reported in this way. Where relevant, comparisons have been drawn to figures from the 2020 collection. In many instances the pattern of data remains similar so only 2021 figures have been shown.

For further information about this data collection please contact:

pienquiries@data.cymru.

Please select a local authority from the drop-down list:

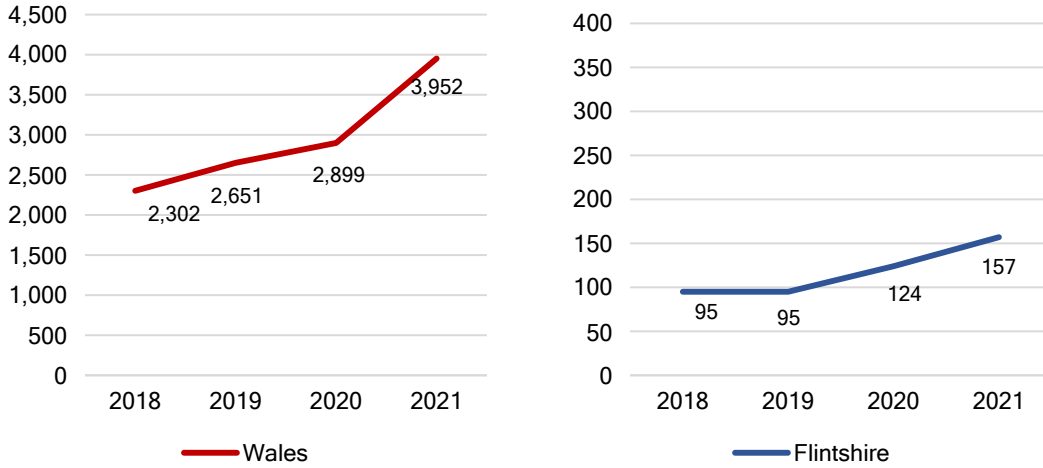
Flintshire ▼

Part 1: Children known to be home educated on 26 January 2021

Across Wales there were 3,952 children known to be home educated in Nursery - Year 11 on 26 January 2021. This was 1,053 more than the 2,899 reported on the census date in 2020, an increase of around 36%.

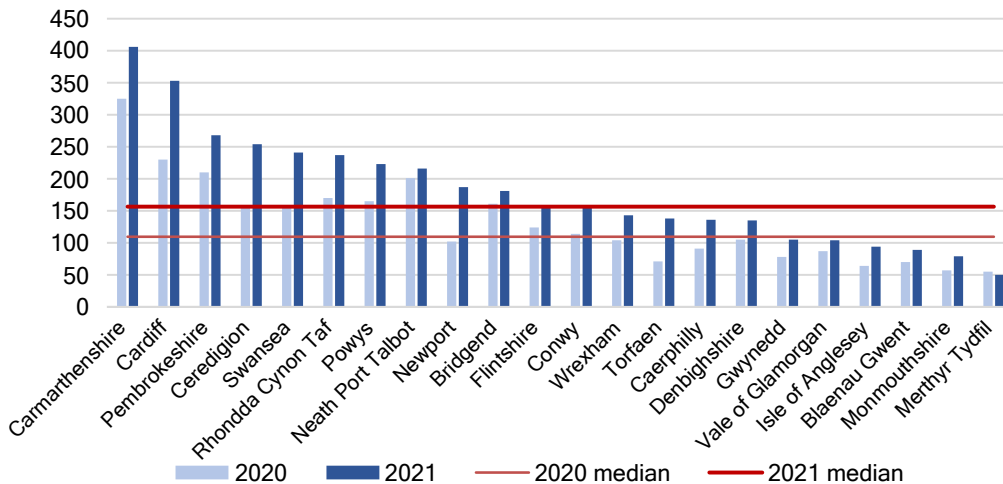
In Flintshire the number of home educated children reported increased from 124 in 2020 to 157 in 2021 (27%).

Figure 1: Number of children known to be home educated on the census date



Across LAs, the number of home educated children ranged from 406 in Carmarthenshire to 50 in Merthyr Tydfil. The average (mean) number of home educated children was 180 per LA, up from 132 per LA in 2020. Because this data is not normally distributed, the median is a better measure of central tendency. The median number of home educated children per LA was 157, up from 110 per LA in 2020. This information is shown in Figure 2.

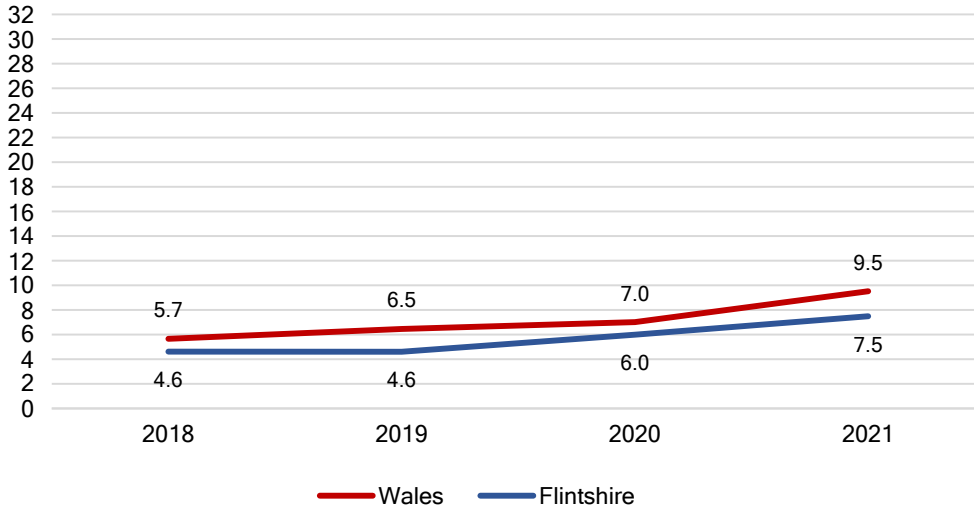
Figure 2: Number of children known to be home educated on the census date



On 26 January 2021 there were 9.5 home educated children per 1,000 pupils in Reception to Year 11 in Wales (2020 PLASC). This was an increase from 7.0 home educated children per 1,000 pupils in 2020.

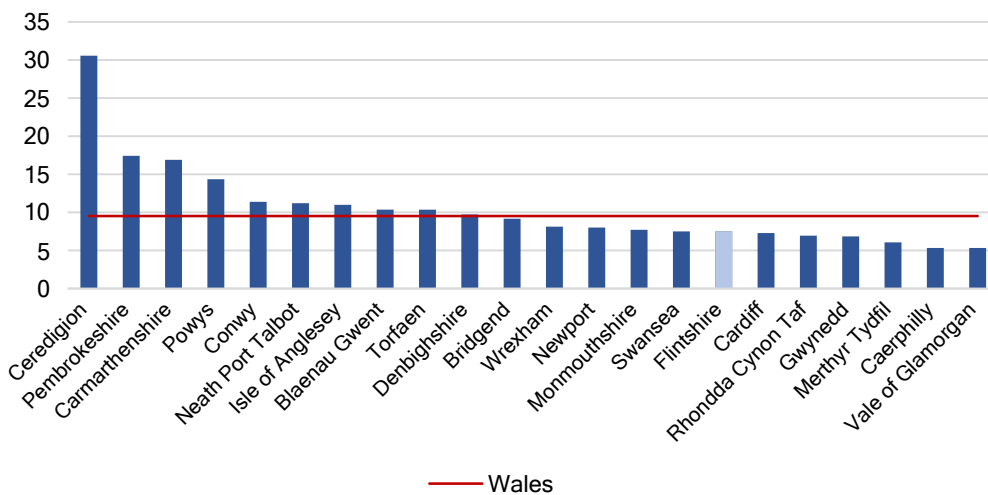
In Flintshire the rate rose from 6 per 1,000 pupils in 2020 to 7.5 per 1,000 pupils in 2021.

Figure 3: Rate of home educated children per 1,000 pupils (Reception - Year 11)



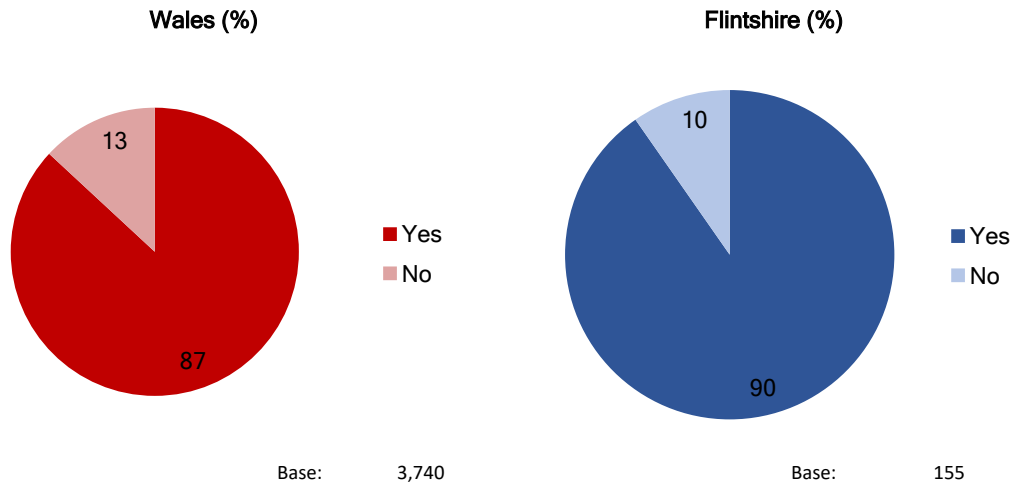
The rate of home educated children ranged from 18.9 per 1,000 pupils in Ceredigion to 5.3 per 1,000 pupils in the Vale of Glamorgan and Caerphilly, shown in Figure 4. Between 2020 and 2021, 21 of the 22 LAs reported an increase in their rate of home educated children.

Figure 4: Rate of home educated children per 1,000 pupils (Reception - Year 11), 26 January 2021



90% of the home educated cohort in Flintshire had been previously enrolled at a school, compared to 87% for Wales, as shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Home educated cohort previously enrolled at a school, 26 January 2021



Of the children that had been previously enrolled at a school, in Flintshire 92% had been enrolled at a LA-maintained school, 0% were from an independent school within the LA, and 8% had been educated outside of the LA area.

Across Wales, 92% had been previously enrolled at a LA-maintained school, 1% at an independent school, and 8% were educated outside of the LA, shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Home educated cohort previously enrolled at a maintained or independent school or outside the LA, 26 January 2021

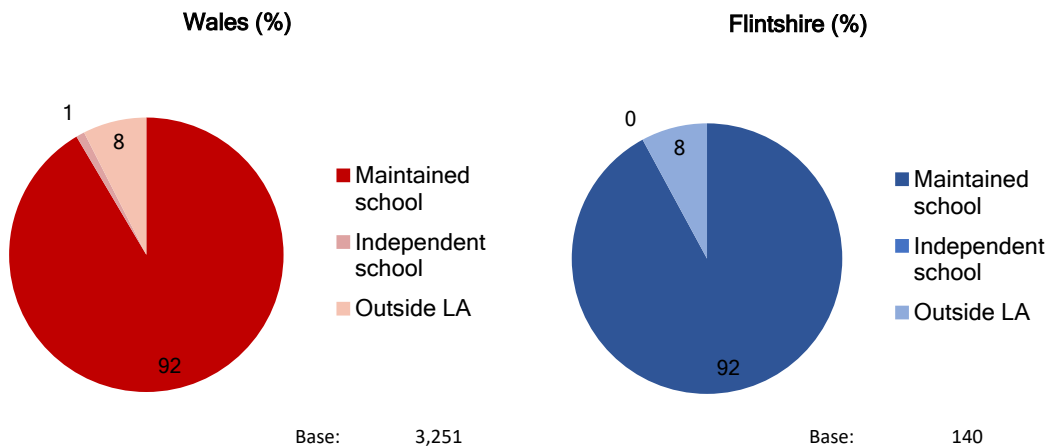


Figure 7 shows the proportion of children in the cohort that became home educated in each year since 2007.

Figure 7: Home educated cohort that became home educated in each year

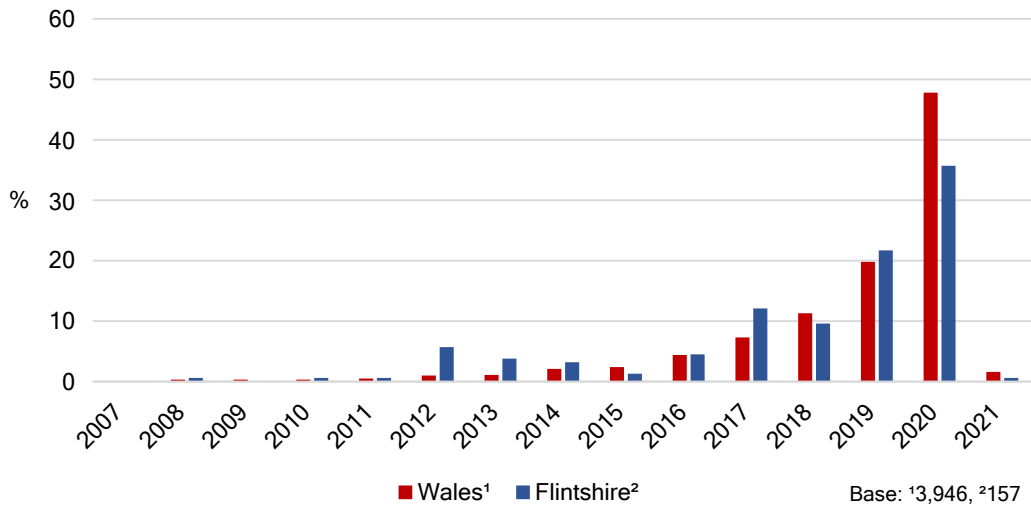


Figure 8 shows the proportion of the home educated cohort that became home educated in each month of the year.

Figure 8: Home educated cohort that became home educated in each month

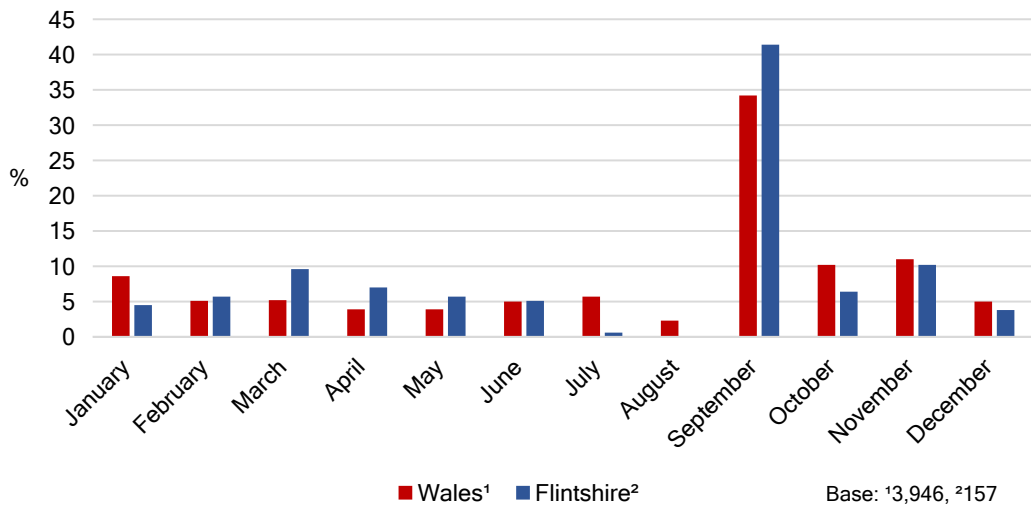


Figure 9 shows the percentage of the cohort that became home educated in each year group (Nursery - Year 11).

Figure 9: Home educated cohort that became home educated in each year group

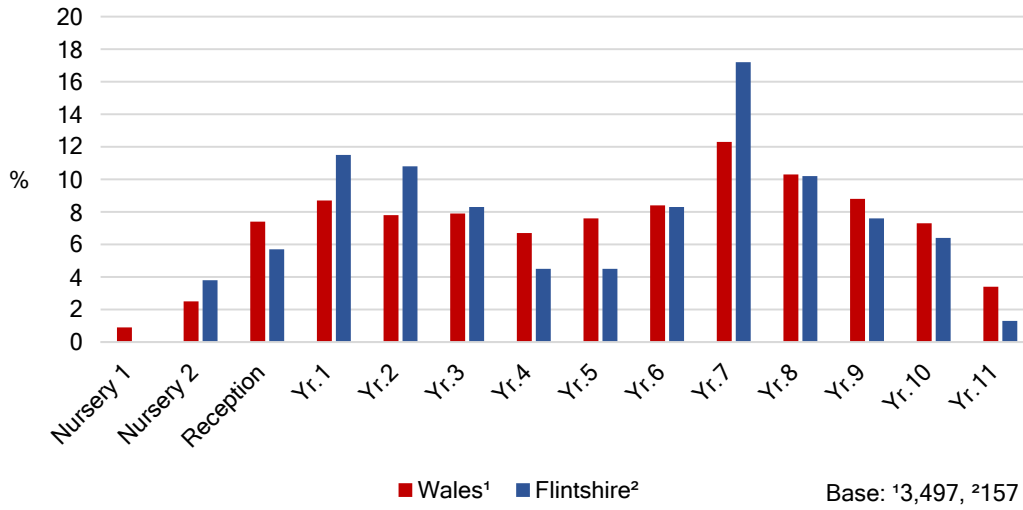


Figure 10 shows the proportion of the cohort that became home educated during each Key Stage. The proportion of children becoming home educated in KS4 ranged from 19% in Merthyr Tydfil to 6% in Blaenau Gwent.

Figure 10: Home educated cohort becoming home educated by Key Stage

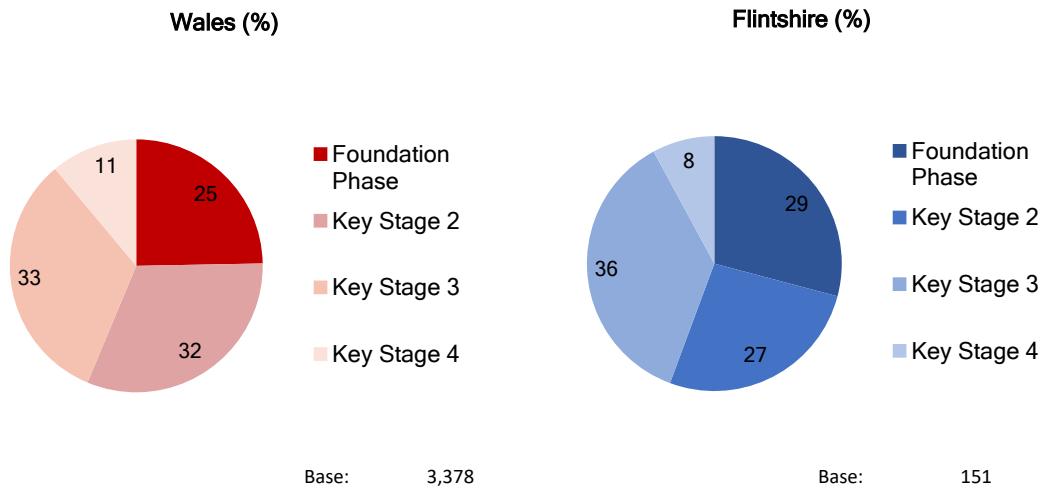


Figure 11 shows the percentage of the cohort that were in each year group on 26 January 2021. For Wales there was a linear increase, with the exception of Year 4, from 3% in Reception to 15% in Year 11. 6% of the cohort were in Year 4, compared to 7% in Year 3. The highest proportion of home educated children were in Year 11 in 15 of the 22 LAs.

Figure 11: Home educated cohort in each year group on 26 January 2021

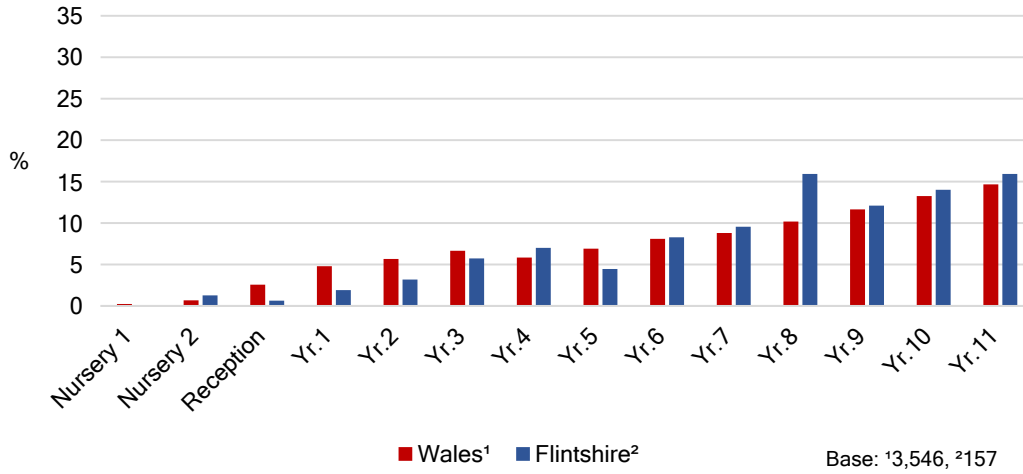


Figure 12 shows the proportion of home educated children in each Key Stage on 26 January 2021. 30% of the home educated cohort in Flintshire were in KS4, compared to 28% for Wales.

Figure 12: Home educated cohort in each Key Stage on 26 January 2021

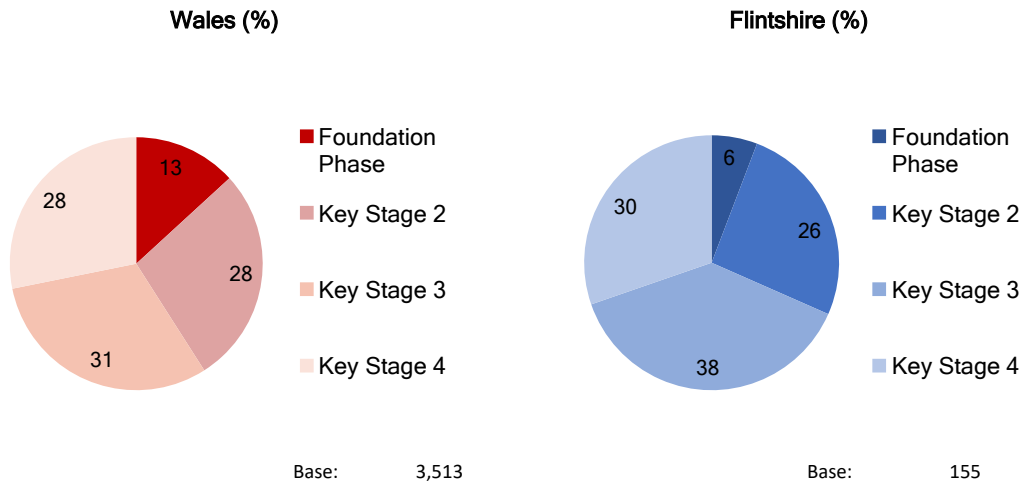


Figure 13 shows the gender split of the home educated cohort, in Wales and in Flintshire. On 26 January 2021 there were more male than female home educated children in 13 LAs, more female than male home educated children in eight LAs, and an equal proportion of male and female home educated children in one LA.

Figure 13: Home educated cohort by gender on 26 January 2021

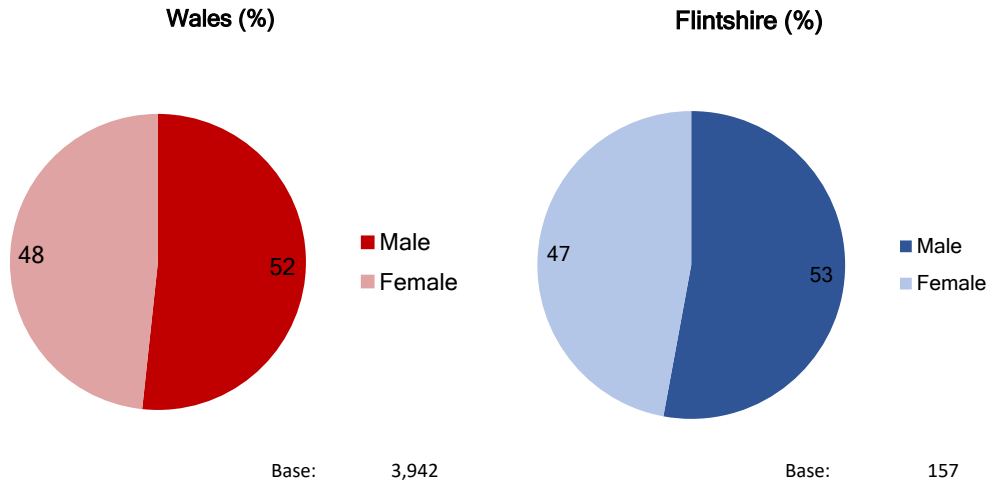
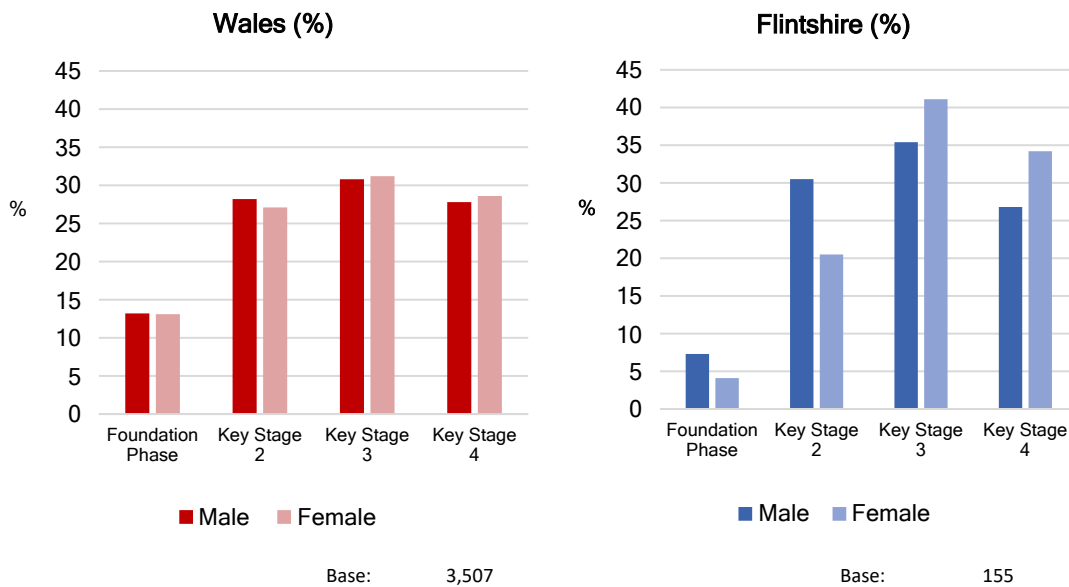


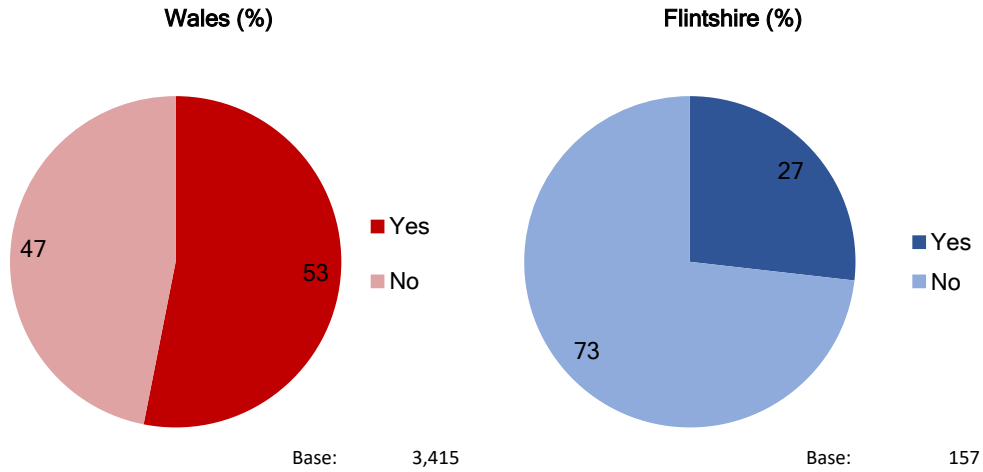
Figure 14 shows the home educated cohort split by gender and Key Stage in Wales and in Flintshire.

Figure 14: Home educated cohort by gender and Key Stage on 26 January 2021



Across Wales 53% of the cohort had received a visit from a LA officer with responsibility for home education in the previous 12 months, shown in Figure 15. Note this information was unknown or not reported for 14% of cases.

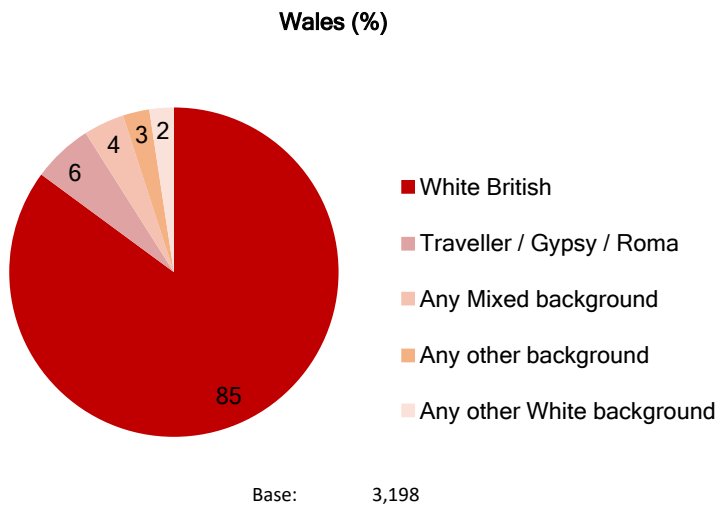
Figure 15: Home educated cohort that received a visit in the previous 12 months (to 26 January 2021)



Due to small numbers in some categories, subsequent charts show the data at Wales level only.

Information about ethnic group was refused in <1% of cases and not obtained in 18% of cases. Of those where ethnic group was known, the percentage of the home educated cohort from different ethnic backgrounds is shown in Figure 16.

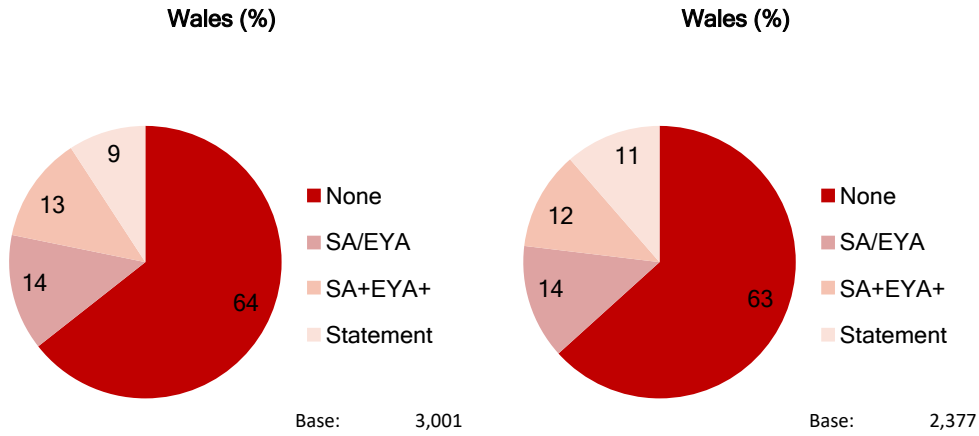
Figure 16: Home educated cohort by ethnic group on 26 January 2021



As shown in Figure 17 and Figure 18, 9% of the home educated cohort had a statement of special educational needs (SEN) at the time they became home educated, and 11% had a statement of SEN on 26 January 2021. This data was unavailable for 18% / 34% of cases.

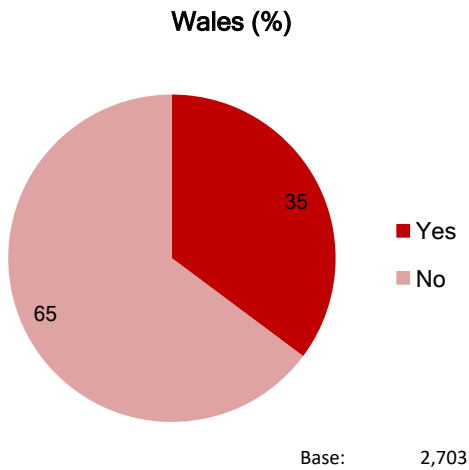
Figure 17: Home educated cohort by SEN/ALN status when becoming home educated

Figure 18: Home educated cohort by SEN/ALN status on 26 January 2021



The proportion of the home educated cohort that was eligible for free school meals (eFSM) is shown in Figure 19. This data was not applicable to 16% of the cohort who had not been previously enrolled at a school, and was unknown for 16% of the cohort that had been previously enrolled.

Figure 19: Home educated cohort eligible for free school meals (eFSM) on 26 January 2021



The data collection also found that:

- 94 children were known to be learning English as an additional language (EAL) across 15 LAs. EAL status was not reported for 29% of the cohort.
- 85 children across 10 LAs were known to have a first/main language "other" than Welsh and/or English. This information was not reported for 20% of cases.
- There were 41 cases across 7 LAs where a notice of intent to issue a school attendance order (SAO) was sent by the local education authority in relation to the current home education period. 1 SAO was actually issued in 1 LA. This information was not reported for 17% of cases.
- There were 12 home educated children registered on the Child Protection Register across 7 LAs. This information was not reported for 19% of cases.
- There were 44 home educated children registered as Children In Need across 10 LAs. This information was not reported for 25% of cases.
- The reason for becoming home educated was not reported in 18% of cases. For the 3,228 cases where a reason was specified, Figure 20 shows the proportion of children recorded as being home educated for each reason:

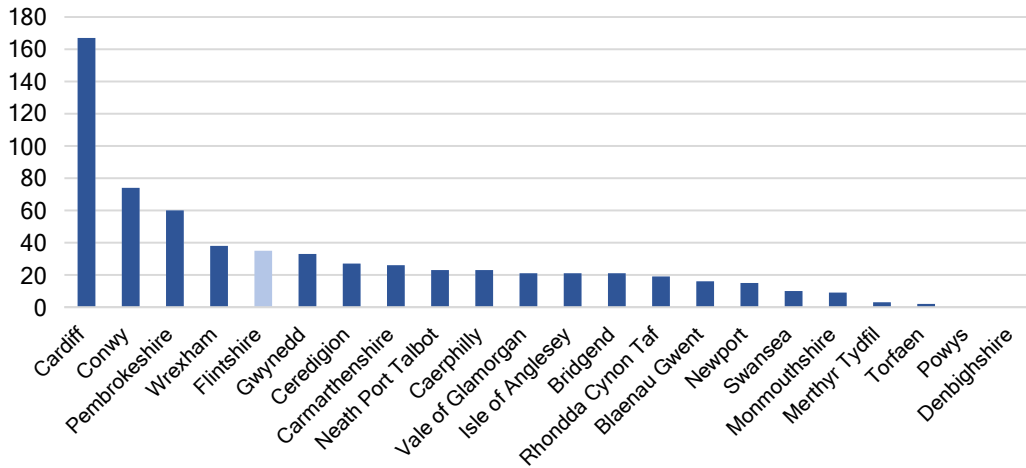
Figure 20: Reason for becoming home educated

	%
Lifestyle / ideological / philosophical	33
Anxiety/concern due to COVID-19	16
Anxious / phobic	10
School cannot provide appropriate SEN provision	4
Bullying	4
Child medical need	3
School / parent / child relationship breakdown	3
Attendance / prosecution	3
Parental preference (historic response option, no longer in use)	3
Religious beliefs	1
Awaiting a place in school of choice	1
Parent medical need	0
Preferred school refused	*
School cannot provide appropriate language provision	*
Gender identity	*
Racism	*
Homophobia	0
Other	18

Part 2: Formerly home educated children returning to school between 14 January 2020 - 26 January 2021

As shown in Figure 21, in the year preceding the collection date, 643 children that were formerly home educated either returned to school or enrolled at a school for the first time. This ranged from 167 children in Cardiff to 0 children in Denbighshire and Powys.

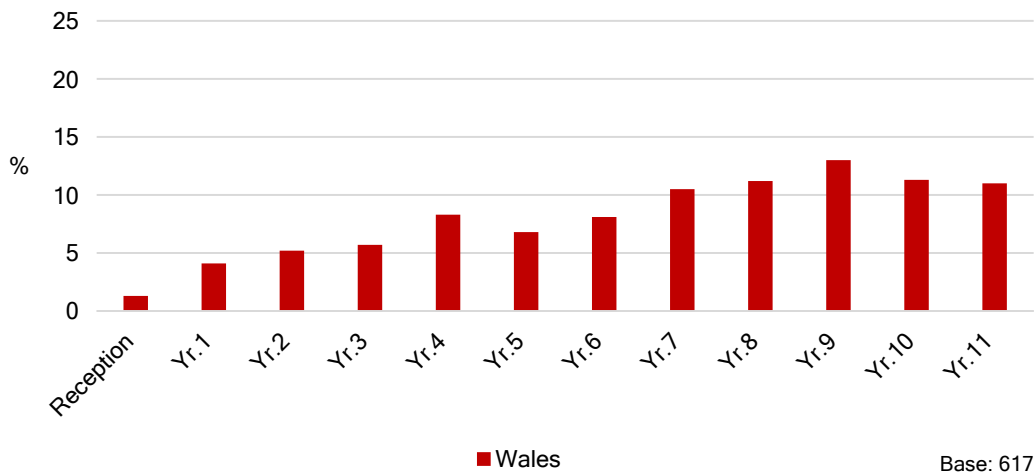
Figure 21: Number of formerly home educated children returning to school in the preceding 12 months



Due to small numbers in some categories, subsequent charts show the data at Wales level only.

Figure 22 shows the year group of those children that returned to school as at 26 January 2021. 11% of 'returners' were in the Foundation Phase, 30% in KS2, 36% in KS3 and 23% in KS4.

Figure 22: Year group of those returning to school



49% of 'returners' were male and 51% were female, as shown in Figure 23.

Figure 23: Gender of those returning to school

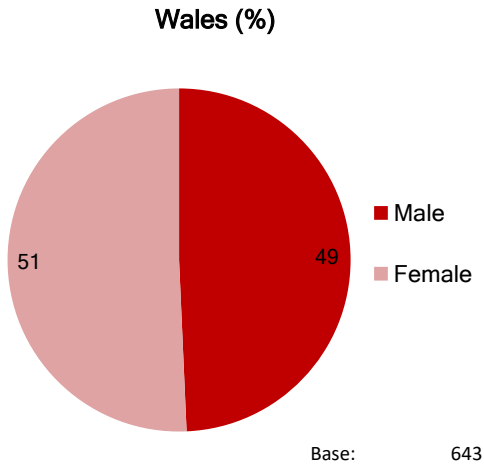
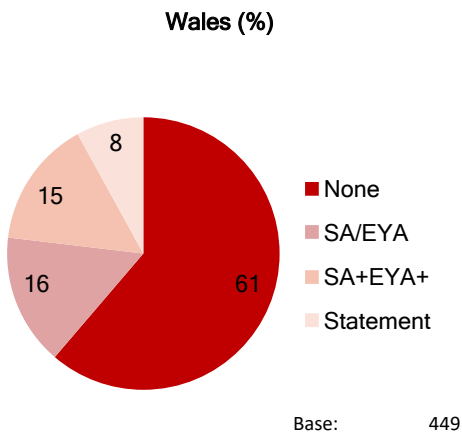


Figure 24 shows the SEN status of the children returning to school. This information was unknown for 27% of 'returners'. Of those where SEN status was known, 8% had statements of SEN/ALN.

Figure 24: SEN status of those returning to school

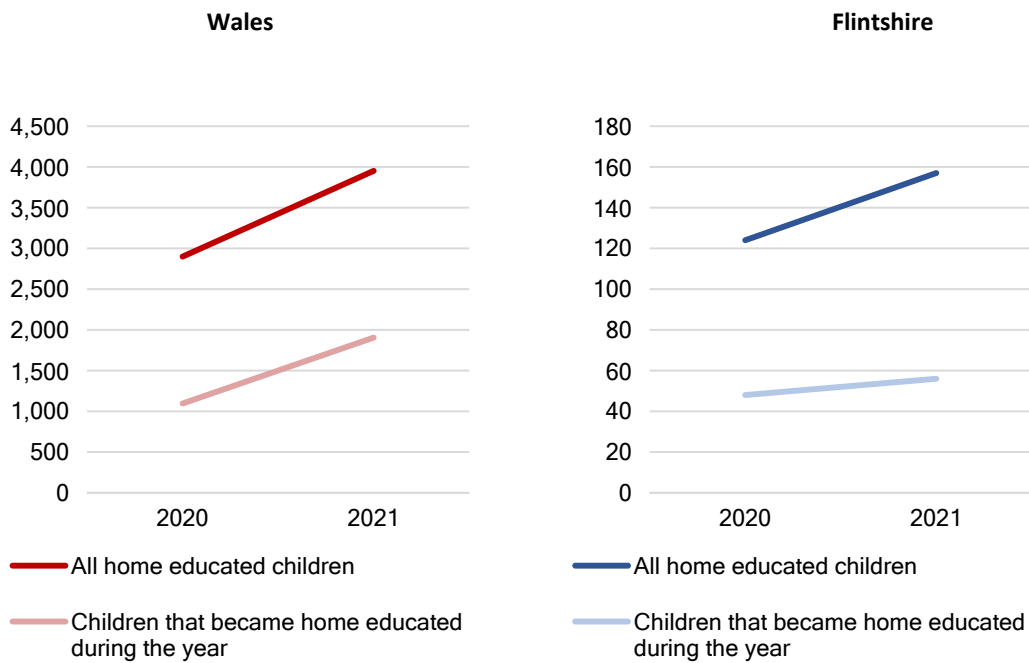


Part 3: Children known to have become home educated between 15 January 2020 and 26 January 2021 (during the year)

Of the 3,952 children known to be home educated in Nursery - Year 11 on 26 January 2021, 1,905 (48%) became home educated during the year. This compares to 1,096 (38%) children in the previous year (16 January 2019 – 14 January 2020).

As shown in Figure 25, 56 (36%) home educated children became home educated during the year in Flintshire, compared to 48 (39%) in the previous year.

Figure 25: Number of children known to be home educated on the census date



Across LAs, the number of children that became home educated during the year ranged from 203 in Carmarthenshire to 14 in Merthyr Tydfil.

Figure 26: Number of children that became home educated during the year

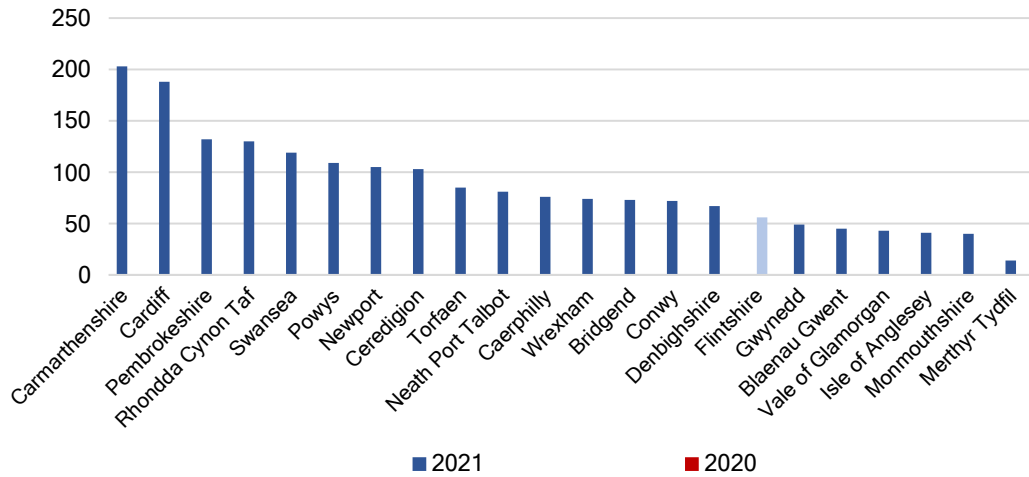
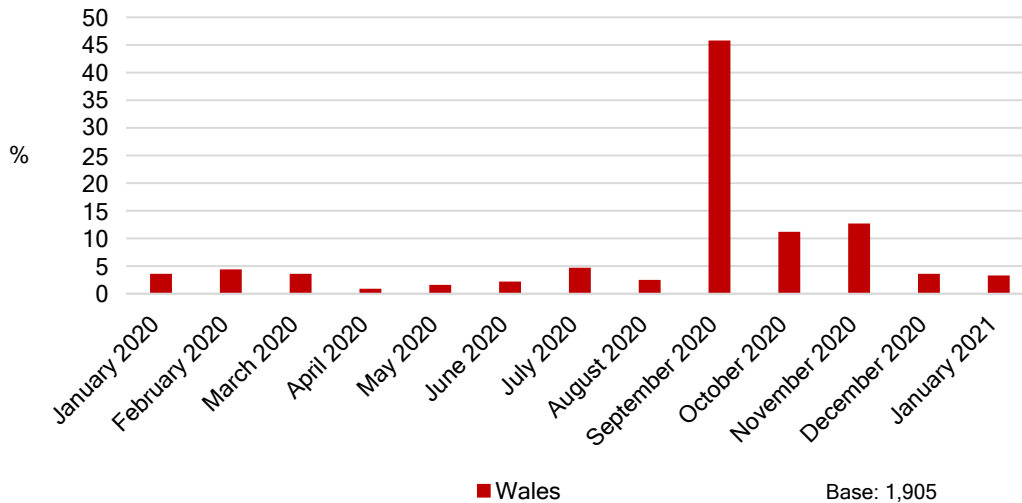


Figure 27 shows the proportion of children across Wales that became home educated between 15 January 2020 and 26 January 2021 by the month they became home educated.

Figure 27: Children that became home educated during the year, by month



The reason for becoming home educated was not reported in 14% of cases across Wales during the year. For the 1,641 cases where a reason was specified, 'Anxiety/concern due to COVID-19' was cited as the main reason for becoming home educated in 30% of cases. Figure 28 below shows the proportion of children recorded as being home educated for each reason:

Figure 28: Reason for becoming home educated during the year

	%
Anxiety/concern due to COVID-19	30
Lifestyle / ideological / philosophical	27
Anxious / phobic	8
Attendance / prosecution	3
Child medical need	2
Parental preference (historic response option, no longer in use)	2
School cannot provide appropriate SEN provision	2
School / parent / child relationship breakdown	2
Bullying	2
Awaiting a place in school of choice	2
Religious beliefs	1
Homophobia	0
Parent medical need	*
Preferred school refused	*
Gender identity	*
School cannot provide appropriate language provision	*
Racism	*
Other	18