

Public Document Pack

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To: Cllr Teresa Carberry (Chair)

Councillors: Bill Crease, David Healey, Ian Hodge, Fran Lister, Gina Maddison, Ryan McKeown, Debbie Owen, Andrew Parkhurst, Carolyn Preece and Jason Shallcross

Co-opted Members:

Lisa Allen, Lynn Bartlett and Wendy White

22 November 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF HYBRID MEETING
EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2024 at 2.00 PM

Yours faithfully

Steven Goodrum
Democratic Services Manager

Please note: Attendance at this meeting is either in person in the Delyn Committee Room, Flintshire County Council, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire or on a virtual basis.

The meeting will be live streamed onto the Council's website. The live streaming will stop when any confidential items are considered. 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 3 - 10)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on 17 October and 6 November, 2024.

4 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING** (Pages 11 - 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 **NEWYDD CATERING - SCHOOL MEAL PROVISION** (Pages 23 - 44)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

Purpose: To provide an update to the Committee on the service provided at Schools, including information on pupil engagement and suggestions made by pupils during the Learner Voice event, and if they had been taken on board.

6 **THEATR CLWYD AND SCHOOL MUSIC SERVICE** (Pages 45 - 88)

Report of Chief Officer (Education and Youth) - Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure

Purpose: To receive a report on the involvement of young people in the activities at Theatr Clwyd, together with an update on the School Music Service.

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

EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **17 OCTOBER 2024**

Minutes of the Education, Youth and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Thursday, 17 October 2024

PRESENT: **Councillor Teresa Carberry (Chair)**
Councillors: Bill Crease, Gladys Healey, Ian Hodge,
Fran Lister, Gina Maddison, Debbie Owen, Andrew Parkhurst,
Carolyn Preece, Jason Shallcross and Dave Healey (substitute
for Ryan McKeown)

Co-optees: Lisa Allen and Lynn Barlett

OBSERVERS: Councillor David Mackie

APOLOGIES: None

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Mared Eastwood (Cabinet Member for Education,
Welsh Language and Culture), Councillor Paul Johnson
(Cabinet Member for Finance and Social Value), Chief Officer
(Education and Youth), Senior Manager (School Improvement),
Senior Manager (Planning and Provision), Senior Manager
(Inclusion and Progression), Senior Manager (Business
Change & Support) and Learning Advisor (Health, Wellbeing &
Safeguarding)

Corporate Finance Manager and Strategic Finance Manager
(Schools) - for minute number 33

Senior Manager, Integrated Youth Provision and Lead Officer
for Play Development - for minute number 36

IN ATTENDANCE: Democratic Services Manager, Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
and Democratic Services Officer

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS) **([Link to recording](#))**

On agenda item 5 (Budget 2024/25 - Stage 2), the Chair and Carolyn Preece both declared a personal interest as school governors. A personal interest was also declared by Councillor Fran Lister as her children attended a Flintshire school.

The Facilitator advised that Members of the Committee who were school governors did not have to declare a personal interest at the meeting if their role as governor had been include on their register of interests form.

31. MINUTES ([Link to recording](#))

Councillor Gladys Healey asked that her name be included on the minutes as she had been in attendance. On that basis, the minutes were approved.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2024 be approved as a correct record.

32. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING ([Link to recording](#))

The Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented a [report \(agenda item number 4\)](#) to consider the current Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking progress.

In addition to the suggestion that the Healthy Schools Scheme be moved to July 2025, it was also agreed to schedule future items on home schooling and discretionary school transport.

On that basis, the recommendations were supported.

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.

33. BUDGET 2024/25 - STAGE 2 ([Link to recording](#))

The Corporate Finance Manager and Chief Officer (Education and Youth) presented a [report \(agenda item number 5\)](#) to review cost pressures and associated risks for the Education & Youth portfolio and Schools' budget, under the remit of this Committee.

During the debate, the following points were raised:

- To communicate to Welsh Government (WG) the impact of cuts to funding to schools and to seek consideration of changing some grant funding streams to statutory funding;
- For decisions by Welsh Government (WG) to be fully funded.
- To maximise opportunities to progress literacy skills for pupils with additional learning needs.
- The importance of maintaining grant funding for specialist provision to support pupils with medical needs.
- Support for retaining the cost pressure for holiday provision of eligible free school meals and to suggest that alternative models/opportunities be explored with external organisations and voluntary groups on solutions to tackle child poverty during school holidays.

In response to a question, the Facilitator agreed to ascertain which Committee would receive details of additional cost pressures for leisure and libraries once the

transfer had been concluded. She also confirmed that the comments made by the Committee would be fed back to Cabinet.

The recommendations, which were amended to reflect the debate, were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee acknowledge the Education and Youth portfolio's cost pressures, as outlined within the report, and confirm that the cost pressures should be taken forward as part of the 2025/26 budget;
- (b) That the Committee acknowledge the Schools' cost pressures, as outlined within the report, and confirm that the cost pressures should be taken forward as part of the 2025/26 budget;
- (c) That a letter be written to Welsh Government to outline the Committee's concern around the challenge for the Education & Youth Services around the uncertainty on Grant funding streams and request that consideration be given to changing those Grant Funding streams in future to Statutory Funding; and
- (d) That a letter be written to Welsh Government to request that additional funding be provided for children who are educated at home due to additional learning needs due to a medical condition.

34. SELF-EVALUATION REPORT EDUCATION SERVICES 2023-24 ([Link to recording](#))

The Chief Officer (Education and Youth) presented a [report \(agenda item number 6\)](#) on the outcome of the annual self-evaluation of performance and services within the Education & Youth portfolio, to provide assurance on the quality of education services in Flintshire.

The Chief Officer took the opportunity to thank her senior management team for their valuable contributions to the report. Councillor Mared Eastwood also recorded her thanks to the Chief Officer and her team. Her sentiments were echoed by Members of the Committee.

The recommendations, which were amended to reflect the debate, were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee notes the outcome of the Education Portfolio's annual self-evaluation report on the quality of education services for the period 2023-2024; and
- (b) That a letter be written to the Chief Officer (Education & Youth) to be shared with her team to thank them for the positive findings of the Self-Evaluation Report for the Education Services 2023-24.

There was a brief adjournment at this stage of the meeting.

35. ANTI-RACIST WALES ACTION PLAN ([Link to recording](#))

The Learning Advisor (Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding) presented a [report \(agenda item number 7\)](#) on progress in meeting the requirements of the Welsh Government Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, in line with the development of the new Curriculum for Wales.

The recommendation was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee confirms that it has received an appropriate level of assurance regarding the progress made towards the Anti-racist Action Plan for Wales goals for Education and Welsh language.

36. FLINTSHIRE COUNTY SUMMER PLAYScheme 2024 ([Link to recording](#))

The Lead Officer for Play Development presented a [report \(agenda item number 8\)](#) on the Flintshire County Summer Playscheme 2024 which highlighted significant achievements, ongoing initiatives and potential risks, to ensure that stakeholders understood the value of these programmes and the importance of continued support for their success. He also suggested a Members' briefing session on the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

The recommendations in the report were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee supports Year-Round Community-Based Play Provisions: to continue to provide safe, supervised play opportunities for children in their communities, particularly in areas affected by austerity;
- (b) That the Committee endorses the PlayPals Programme: to promote the School delivery of the PlayPals initiative, a 6-week programme designed to empower children with knowledge of their rights to play and encourage them to become play ambassadors within their schools and communities; and
- (c) That the Committee supports the Play Sufficiency Assessment: to actively champion play opportunities for children in Flintshire by supporting the Play Sufficiency Action Plan. This includes participating in advocacy efforts, attending relevant meetings, and engaging in local events. Through this involvement, contribute to the development of a robust Play Sufficiency Plan for 2025–2028, ensuring play remains a priority in the community.

37. FOOD AND FUN PROGRAMME 2024 ([Link to recording](#))

The Learning Advisor (Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding) presented a [report \(agenda item number 9\)](#) on the delivery of the Food and Fun Programme to ten schools in Summer 2024.

The Chair thanked the officers and all those involved in the programme for their achievements.

The recommendation was supported.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee acknowledges the positive impact of the Food and Fun Programme in Flintshire schools on learners and their families.

38. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

None.

(The meeting started at 2pm and ended at 5.08pm)

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Chair

Meetings of the Education, Youth and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee are webcast and can be viewed by visiting the webcast library at <http://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
6 NOVEMBER 2024

Minutes of the Education, Youth and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, 6 November 2024

- PRESENT:** **Councillor Teresa Carberry (Chair)**
Councillors: Bill Crease, Ian Hodge, Fran Lister, Gina Maddison, Ryan McKeown. Andrew Parkhurst, Carolyn Preece, Jason Shallcross and Dave Healey (substitute for Gladys Healey)
- Co-optees: Lisa Allen and Lynn Barlett
- OBSERVERS:** Councillor Richard Lloyd
- APOLOGIES:** None
- CONTRIBUTORS:** Councillor Mared Eastwood (Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language and Culture), Chief Officer (Education and Youth), Senior Manager (School Improvement), Senior Manager (Inclusion and Progression) and Senior Manager (Business Change & Support)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officers

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

None.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following item by virtue of exempt information under paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

40. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MODEL

The Chief Officer (Education & Youth) introduced a report to update elected Members on the progress being made to create a new Flintshire School Improvement Service from 1st April 2025 as a result of the Welsh Government 'Middle Tier Review'. The report built upon the report presented to the Committee in May 2024.

The recommendations were supported.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee confirms that it understands the complexities in creating a new local authority model for school improvement services within the expected timescales with some critical information not yet available;
- (b) That the Committee confirms it has confidence in the draft model being presented to ensure ongoing and effective support for Flintshire schools to ensure the best outcomes for learners;
- (c) That the Committee accepts that the model has to be flexible and would be subject to changes being made by the senior officers of the Education Portfolio as progress was made towards the April 2025 deadline; and
- (d) That the comments made by the Committee be noted to inform the development of the model.

41. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

None.

(The meeting started at 10am and ended at 11.27am)

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Chair

Meetings of the Education, Youth and Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee are webcast and can be viewed by visiting the webcast library at <http://flintshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>



EDUCATION YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 28 th November, 2024
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
<p>Thursday 9th January 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>	<p>Specialist provision and Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Funding</p> <p>Youth Services Update</p> <p>Corporate Risk Register</p>	<p>To provide an update on Specialist Provision and ALN Funding</p> <p>To provide an update on the work of the Youth Services, including information on the Leeswood Transition Club and Bronze Quality Mark.</p> <p>To review the Council’s Corporate Risk Register</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p> <p>Information Sharing</p> <p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Senior Manager – Inclusion & Progression</p> <p>Senior Manager - Integrated Youth Provision</p> <p>Strategic Performance Advisor</p>
<p>Monday 17th February 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>	<p>Belonging Strategy</p>	<p>To present the Belonging Strategy to the Committee.</p>	<p>Information Sharing</p>	<p>Senior Manager – Inclusion & Progression</p>
<p>Thursday 27th March 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>	<p>School Modernisation</p> <p>School Parking</p>	<p>To update Members on the progress made with School Modernisation.</p> <p>To provide an update on the work of the School Parking Task & Finish Group.</p>	<p>Information Sharing</p> <p>Information Sharing</p>	<p>Senior Manager School Planning & Provision</p> <p>Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator</p>

<p>Thursday 22nd May 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>	<p>Attendance & Exclusions</p>	<p>To provide Members with an overview of school attendance and exclusions and the role of the Portfolio’s support services in this area. The Elective Home Education (EHE) Lead will be in attendance to answer any questions on this area.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth)</p>
	<p>Corporate Risk Register</p>	<p>To review the Council’s Corporate Risk Register</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Strategic Performance Advisor</p>
<p>Thursday 19th June 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>	<p>Council Plan Mid-plan Review</p>	<p>To review new proposed Council Plan and outcome of public consultation.</p>	<p>Consultation</p>	<p>Strategic Performance Advisor</p>
<p>Joint EY&C & S&HC OSC Thursday 26th June 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>	<p>Trauma Informed Schools</p>	<p>To provide information on Trauma Informed School and the support provided to children who suffer with trauma or mental health problems and whose troubled behaviour acts as a barrier to learning.</p>	<p>Information Sharing</p>	<p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth)</p>
	<p>Safeguarding in Education including Internet Safety and Social Media</p>	<p>To provide an update on the discharge of statutory safeguarding duties in schools and the Education portfolio. To include information on Relationship and Sexual Education and how this was contributing to reducing harm.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Senior Manager for School Improvement / Learning Advisor – Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding</p>

<p>Friday 18th July 2025</p> <p>10.00am</p> <p>Page 17</p>	<p>School Parking</p>	<p>To provide an update on the work of the School Parking Task & Finish Group.</p>	<p>Information Sharing</p>	<p>Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator</p>
	<p>Learning from the School Performance Monitoring Group</p>	<p>To receive an update on progress and learning from the School Performance Monitoring Group.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth)</p>
	<p>Healthy Schools Scheme and Healthy & Sustainable Pre-School Scheme (HSPSS)</p>	<p>That the Committee be advised / consulted on the aims & objectives following the relaunch of the scheme.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Learning Advisor – Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding</p>
	<p>Annual Performance Report 2023/24 (combined with the Council Plan End of Year Performance Report 2024/25)</p>	<p>To approve the Annual Performance Report 2024-25, noting the Council Plan end of year performance for 2024-25.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator</p>
	<p>Corporate Risk Register</p>	<p>To review the Council’s Corporate Risk Register</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Strategic Performance Advisor</p>

Items to the scheduled

- Flintshire Libraries and Leisure (FLL) Business Plan

INFORMATION REPORTS/BRIEFING PAPERS TO BE CIRCULATED TO THE COMMITTEE

Item	Purpose of information report	Month
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
Parking Outside Schools	To provide information from the Highways Team on legislation around parking outside schools and the mechanism in place for joint working with the Police and Schools.	March / July

REGULAR ITEMS

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
February/ March	School Modernisation	To update Members on the progress made with School Modernisation.	Senior Manager School Planning & Provision
May	Attendance & Exclusions	To provide Members with an overview of school attendance and exclusions and the role of the Portfolio's support services in this area.	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
September	Self-evaluation on education services & learner outcomes	To update Members on overall service performance including Learner Outcomes.	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
June	Additional Learning Needs	To update members on the implementation of national ALN reforms in schools and the role of the Portfolio's support services in this area.	Senior Manager – Inclusion & Progression

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
September	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 - now part of Safeguarding Report to the Joint Scrutiny Committee	To receive an annual report assurance/monitoring.	Healthy Schools Practitioner
Annually (September)	Young Flintshire Annual Report	To share project outcomes from key topics identified by young people voice across Flintshire.	Healthy Schools and Pre Schools Officer

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

Meeting Date	Agenda item	Action Required	Action Officer(s)	Action taken	Timescale
23.05.2024	10. Saltney & Broughton School Network Review	Cllr Arnold Woolley asked if information around the future timescales could be provided. Jennie Williams advised that information on the clear timescale could be provided to Committee Members.	Jennie Williams	The timetable is currently in development with School Modernisation and the Chief Officer and will be shared with all stakeholders once it is available.	Ongoing
18.07.2024	5. Healthy Schools Scheme and Healthy & Sustainable Pre-School Scheme (HSPSS)	The Chair suggested that case studies/examples from the School Health Research Network Survey be shared following the meeting. Claire Sinnott agreed to share case studies once the findings had been analysed.	Claire Sinnott / Ceri Shotton	Case Study examples to be provided following the October half term to allow for the data to be reviewed.	Ongoing
17.10.2024	4. Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	Cllr Fran Lister asked that a report on the Discretionary School Transport budget be added to the FWP for consideration at a future meeting.	Ceri Shotton / Claire Homard	There are no proposals to change the dictionary elements of the Transport Policy. It is proposed that a briefing/workshop be held with all Members in the Spring 2025 on the School Transport Policy, to be held jointly with Education and Streetscene officers.	On-going

ACTION TRACKING

APPENDIX 2

17.10.2024	5. Budget 2024/25 – Stage 2	As shown in recommendation (c) that a letter be written to Welsh Government to outline the Committee's concern around the challenge for the Education & Youth Services around the uncertainty on Grant funding streams and request that consideration be given to changing those Grant Funding streams in future to Statutory Funding.	Ceri Shotton / Cllr Teresa Carberry	Letter sent to Mark Drakeford MS on 14.11.2024.	Completed
17.10.2024	5. Budget 2024/25 – Stage 2	As shown in recommendation (d) that a letter be written to Welsh Government to request that additional funding be provided for children who are educated at home due to a medical condition who have additional learning needs.	Ceri Shotton / Cllr Teresa Carberry	Letter sent to Lynne Neagle MS on 14.11.2024.	Completed
17.10.2024	6. Self-Evaluation Report Education Services 2023-24	As shown in recommendation (b) that a letter be written to the Chief Officer (Education & Youth) to be shared with her team to thank them for the positive findings of the Self-Evaluation Report for the Education Services 2023-24.	Ceri Shotton / Cllr Teresa Carberry	Letter sent to Claire Homard on 14.11.2024	Completed
17.10.2024	8. Flintshire County Summer Playscheme 2024	Darren Morris suggested that a briefing sessions be held with Councillors around the Play Sufficiency Assessment.	Darren Morris / Ceri Shotton	A briefing will be arranged for some time early in 2025.	Ongoing



EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 28 th November 2024
Report Subject	Newydd Catering – school meal provision
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NEWydd Catering & Cleaning have played a key role, along with Council colleagues across numerous departments, in ensuring all schools in Flintshire were able to provide Universal Primary Free School Meals ahead of the target date from Welsh Government of September 2024. Working in partnership with the Council, NEWydd ensured that all pupils in the Primary sector were able to access this provision by April 2024.

To further promote the uptake of schools meals and in order to meet the initiative's key element of providing all pupils in Primary Education with a healthy and varied diet, NEWydd also launched their 'Refresh menus' in September 2023. These provided pupils with access to a fresh salad bar, freshly baked bread, a yoghurt and fresh fruit dessert bar daily.

Much work has been undertaken in Flintshire secondary schools in reviewing the existing food provision in line with the Welsh Government Healthy Eating Regulations following the Covid-19 pandemic. Working in partnership with the Health Promoting Schools Team, four learner voice workshops were held in 2023 and 2024 with representatives from all Flintshire secondary schools attending. Children and young people's voice has driven this area of work in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

This report has been developed in order to update the Committee on the service provided to Flintshire schools, including information on pupil engagement and suggestions made by children and young people during the Learner Voice workshops, outlining how these have influenced service delivery.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members of the Committee are updated in regard to level of pupil engagement in relation to school meal provision.
2.	Members are satisfied with the progress made by NEWydd to provide a school meals service that will maximise the positive impact the Welsh Government UPFSM initiative on pupil wellbeing and development.
3.	That Members of the Committee formulate their conclusions and recommendations based on the information in the report and the discussion at the meeting.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE ROLE OUT OF UPFSM, CHANGES TO THE PRIMARY SCHOOL MENU AND CONSULTATIONS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS
1.01	<p>Universal Primary Free School Meals</p> <p>As part of a Co-operation Agreement, Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru announced plans in early 2022 and provided funding for all primary school children to be able to have a free school meal by 2024.</p> <p>Welsh Government's commitment to Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) was in response to the escalating costs of living and aimed to help tackle child poverty, whilst ensuring no child goes hungry in school by providing all pupils with a healthy and varied school meals menu.</p>
1.02	<p>Implementation of UPFSM was phased with a target of all primary aged pupils able to access this by September 2023. Locally, in Flintshire, rollout was completed ahead of target, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• September 2022 – Reception aged children offered UPFSM• April 2023 – Years 1 and Year 2 aged children offered UPFSM• September 2023 – Year 3 and Year 4 aged children offered UPFSM• April 2024 – Year 5 and Year 6 aged children offered UPFSM ensuring all primary aged children were now able to access the service
1.03	<p>To oversee implementation of UPFSM in Flintshire, a small cross-portfolio Project Team was created to work on the rollout with representatives from Education and Youth; Finance; Housing and Assets (Benefits); and Capital Programme and Assets. NEWydd Catering and Cleaning were a key part of this Project Team as the Council's main school catering supplier.</p> <p>So successful was the implementation of the initiative in Flintshire that this team were presented with a 'Recognition of Excellence' award from Welsh Government at the LACA Wales Regional Awards event in October 2023.</p>

1.04	<p>The implementation of UPFSM, although a positive initiative for Welsh children, has brought with it operational challenges for schools and catering providers to deliver.</p> <p>The improvements to infrastructure delivered through this initiative have helped significantly but there was also a need to change the delivery model to meet the new demand for meals.</p> <p>NEWydd had already created their Central Kitchen service to mitigate employment and menu standardisation issues in the smaller schools but further changes to the offer to ensure the demand for meals could be met, and the quality of meals could be maintained, were also required.</p>
1.05	<p>NEWydd recognised that in order to be able to provide the healthy and varied diet that the initiative intended it would need to make changes to the offer. Reducing the number of daily choices across schools whilst introducing more fresh produce and ‘home cooked’ meals would be key to the success of the offer.</p> <p>Following a failed pilot in conjunction with another local supplier the NEWydd Management team consulted with their team of experienced and talented cooks to find a solution. From here the ‘Refresh’ menu offer was created.</p>
1.06	<p>Refresh</p> <p>‘Refresh’ was designed to encourage everyone to take a fresh new look at school meals in Flintshire.</p> <p>A return to fresh, homecooked meals that children will eat and enjoy, the offer now consists of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A combination of freshly cooked popular and innovative hot dishes • 3 daily choices to cater for all tastes and dietary needs • A fresh daily salad bar to compliment the main offer • A fresh fruit & yoghurt bar • Freshly baked bread and desserts back on the menu
1.07	<p>Food in schools Conference – October 2023</p> <p>To launch the new ‘Refresh’ menu NEWydd held a conference to which all primary school Headteachers or their representatives were invited to sample the offer and understand the benefits this would bring to their pupils. This event was held at Ysgol Gwynedd in Flint and was well attended by both schools and members of this Committee.</p> <p>Along with the new offer it was also highlighted to all in attendance that the Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) model which created NEWydd to provide these services to all Flintshire schools, will only be successful as a collective. If the larger schools, who subsidise the smaller schools, continue to tender their provision out to the highest bidder the model will become more expensive and increase the financial strain on the Council.</p>

1.08	<p>In addition to the improved food offer via the Refresh menu, NEWydd are also offering a number of ‘added value’ initiatives for schools to access. A brief description of some of the options schools might like to introduce or offer to their school community are given below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat Smart, Save Better – Parent/Pupil cookery lessons delivered in conjunction with Public Health Wales dieticians • Refresh Community Luncheon club • Refresh gardening club – Grow your lunch • Refresh Hydration Station – for events such as Sports Day • Eco Warrior Competition – Food Waste reduction <p>Each of these will be provided by fully trained and experienced professionals who will support the schools to implement and promote the chosen initiative to maximise the added value this can bring.</p>
1.09	<p>Performance information for the school meals service is good but not quite yet reaching the targets NEWydd have set themselves for the current year.</p> <p>In Primary Schools, the introduction of Refresh has had a positive impact on Uptake with 68.8% of pupils now taking schools meals. Of those eligible to UPFSM the figure is slightly lower with 67.4% of pupils taking the offer with those traditionally Eligible for Free School Meals (eFSM) performing slightly better at 69.8% against eligibility.</p> <p>Research completed by the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) indicates that Flintshire is within the second quartile for uptake across Wales. This research has also indicated that the uptake of UPFSM is lower in areas of deprivation than it is in more affluent areas. This is something that appears to be confirmed in Flintshire.</p>
1.10	<p>Appendix 4 attached is an example of a survey completed with parents of pupils at Ysgol Y Waun, part of the Hafod Federation. The data shows that a high proportion of customers are happy with the new Refresh offer whilst also providing valuable information for NEWydd to use to improve the service offer.</p> <p>NEWydd have supported other schools in assessing the offer as well as completing regular ‘in person’ surveys with pupils during the lunchtime service. NEWydd are also working on plans to hold another Primary School Food Conference where discussion on the menus as well as the added value option will be progressed.</p>
1.11	<p>Secondary Schools</p> <p>The School Health Research Network (SHRN) data from the Flintshire secondary schools 2021 county report identified a decline in pupils eating fruit and vegetables and a rise in drinking more energy drinks and soft drinks (post Covid-19). The report was published in Spring 2022. Please see Appendix 1 for data comparison.</p> <p>In Autumn term 2022, a review of the school meal provision in line with the Healthy Eating in Schools Wales Regulations was conducted in order to</p>

	<p>check compliance. This was following feedback from schools at the County Health and Wellbeing Forum.</p> <p>Taking a 'Whole System Approach to Eating Well & Being Active in Schools' was also identified as a local and regional priority for the Healthy Promoting Schools Team and as such, a series of secondary pupil food and drink workshops were coordinated: February 2023 / June 2023 / December 2023 / November 2024. All workshops were planned and delivered in partnership with representatives from Newydd.</p>
1.12	<p>At the first workshop in February 2023, up to four pupils were invited from each secondary school including the secondary special school, Maes Hyfryd and the pupil referral unit, Plas Derwen, to share feedback on the provision at their schools via a presentation. The workshop was held at Hawarden High School and all 13 schools were present. Prior to attending, pupils were asked to complete a questionnaire to ascertain the views of other learners regarding food and drink provision in their school. SHRN data on food, energy drinks, water consumption for their individual schools and at a county level was shared and discussed. NEWydd provided a selection of new lunchtime meals and new packaging that pupils in attendance had the opportunity try and give feedback. Please refer to Appendix 2.</p> <p>The most common areas for improvement highlighted by young people included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menus needed to be clear including Vegetarian / Gluten Free options • Meal pricing should be clearly visible • A standard food offer across all secondary schools • Identified the need for more hydration stations.
1.14	<p>The second workshop was held in June 2023 at Castell Alun High School. The same pupils that had met in February were invited to return to discuss progress made in their schools since the initial meeting and to give their feedback on the planned new menu for September 2023 and consider different menu designs and pricing signage. 24 learners from 9 secondary schools attended.</p> <p>A drinks supplier was present for taste testing and NEWydd provided further opportunities for taste testing of morning break options. Learners presented their feedback and further discussions were facilitated regarding and policy development.</p>
1.15	<p>To complement the new menu from September 2023 a 'theme day' would be coordinated each month across all schools (previously they had occurred on different dates in different schools). A competition was arranged to encourage learners to design a menu of their choice for the theme the school was allocated at the workshop, consisting of a main meal, side option and dessert using the Eat Well Guide as a basis for the meal. Learners were encouraged to promote the competition back in school.</p> <p>The winning menu for each theme was allocated a month and recreated across all secondary schools from September 2023. The winners received a</p>

	<p>gift voucher and a free meal for themselves and four friends on the day of their theme day.</p>
1.16	<p>In December 2023, a third learner voice event was held in collaboration with colleagues from NEWydd with 35 learners from 10 secondary schools in attendance.</p> <p>The purpose of the workshop was for learners to feedback on the new menu offer introduced September 2023 and highlight any relevant developments to food and drink provision more generally in their school and to identify priorities going forward. A template questionnaire was provided for learners to gather feedback from their peers prior to attending. Learners had the opportunity to try the winning dishes from the theme day menu design competition and were consulted on the updated model food and fitness policy.</p> <p>At the end of the workshop, both young people and staff were asked to provide "one word" feedback summarising their experience. 19 positive responses were received, with the most common being <i>"useful," "informative," "enjoyable," "interesting," and "brilliant."</i></p> <p>By comparing responses of learners that had completed the food and drink surveys in June 2023 with the responses in December 2023 it was evident that there has been improvements made to the provision (e.g. 84% of learners feel that there are now more healthier breakfast options available in their schools in comparison to 18% in June 2023) There was also greater awareness among learners about different options available (e.g. 72% of learners feel they are now more aware that there are options for vegetarians and vegans in comparison with 27% in June).</p>
1.17	<p>A fourth workshop was held in November 2024 which was attended by 35 learners from 10 schools. Learners came back together to provide an update on food and drink provision in their schools and share what changes had occurred over the last 12-18months.</p> <p>As a result of facilitating engagement opportunities between NEWydd and young people, there is now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New standard Morning Break menu that meets Welsh Government guidelines • New standard Lunchtime menu that meets Welsh Government guidelines • Clear rebranded menu design that can be shared with pupils, staff & parents across different mediums. • Clear standard pricing across our range of products. • A selection of Meal Deals to meet learners' budgets. • Introduction of 'Subway' style sandwich offer – where possible • Standardised theme days on a monthly basis. <p>Alongside the changes made by NEWydd, a more focused audit relating to water provision was conducted with school business managers to identify how many water coolers were functioning in each school in line with the number of pupils on roll. Subsequently 17 mains-operated water coolers at</p>

	8 secondary schools were installed in Spring 2024. A water provision policy template for primary and secondary schools was developed, to reflect the importance of adequate water provision in schools.
1.18	<p>Progress has been captured in different ways. Please refer to examples in Appendix 3. Learners also completed a sentence starter activity as a means of evaluating the workshop. Feedback included:</p> <p>One thing I have learned today is: kids have rights too (16%) One thing I have learned today is: our concerns are considered (10%) The thing I have enjoyed the most about the workshop was: lunch / tasting new recipe ideas (61%) The thing I have enjoyed the most about the workshop was: everything (35%) As a result of today's workshop, when I get back to school, I am going to: share my knowledge from today's event and changes planned (42%) As a result of today's workshop, when I get back to school, I am going to: eat healthy (10%)</p>
1.19	<p>The focus on learner voice influencing menu design and provision has led to input with Welsh Government, who are currently working to revise the Healthy Eating Regulations. Within the Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales 2022 to 2024 Delivery Plan, the Welsh Government have committed to 'reviewing the regulations on school food nutrition in line with the latest nutritional standards and guidelines and update current standards'.</p> <p>As a result, the Senior Universal Free School Meals Implementation Manager from the Welsh Government attended the learner workshop this month to engage with young people regarding the proposals for the revised regulations ahead of a public consultation in 2025 and roll out in 2026.</p>
1.20	Although there has been good progress made to date, it was highlighted by young people at the workshop again that school lunch breaks are generally not long enough as they have been shortened in recent years and many schools do not have enough space for pupils to sit and eat a meal at lunchtimes. These issues contribute to pupils not eating a balanced meal.
1.21	<p>Next steps for Newydd following the November workshop are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce a new 4 weekly menu which will provide greater variety of 'main' meals • Begin to provide new food innovations or concepts such as 'theatre' chef or Jacket Station across the school week to improve interest and uptake • Ensure all signage and pricing is clearly available to all customers at all schools • Introduce the Eco warriors competition designed to help reduce food waste

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Welsh Government have committed to fully funding UPFSM Policy with a number of grant funding streams being made available.
2.02	<p>Revenue Funding – Meal Unit Rate</p> <p>Following a review of Welsh Government funding for the UPFSM Policy they raised the meal unit price to £3.20, in January 2024. They also committed to provide backdated funding to this level to cover all UPFSMs provided since April 2023. This figure remains the same for 2024/2025.</p> <p>Indications show that this figure does not cover all local service delivery costs, i.e. catering supplier costs, utilities, etc. and work to ensure a fair and accountable split of this funding element is being developed.</p>
2.03	<p>Local Authority Education Grant – UPFSM Delivery</p> <p>The Council has been allocated capital grant funding, totalling £3,029,201 to support the procurement of equipment and works to enable UPFSM rollout.</p>
2.04	<p>This funding has enabled infrastructure works to be completed all kitchens to enable the extra cooking capacity that is required to provide the increased number of meals demanded. Schools have been very supportive in this allowing for temporary changes to the menu for the works to be completed.</p> <p>NEWydd have transported hot meals from other local kitchens or provided a reduced menu for 2 days in order to support the improvements required.</p>
2.05	A small number of schools remain in need of infrastructure works and these have been scheduled for the summer holidays in order to remove any impact on the ability to provide meals on a school day.
2.06	<p>This funding has also been used to improve the seating arrangements in schools by upgrading the equipment making seating more effective, increasing the number of available seats and providing seating solutions which are easier to move and maintain.</p> <p>The capital funding has also enabled the purchase of all light equipment required to deliver the increased meal numbers. These items range from crockery and cutlery through to cooking trays, pans and other kitchen utensils.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>Procurement</p> <p>The equipment and works required in kitchens and dining rooms to enable UPFSM delivery was initially identified as circa £1.6m.</p>

	<p>This did have a significant impact on procurement, which was further compounded by the fact that the Council did not originally have established supplier relationships with many suppliers given that school catering is not delivered by the Council in-house.</p> <p>Work to resolve this was swift and with the assistance of NEWydd and their suppliers of catering equipment, along with the Corporate Procurement team direct award contracts were established in order to meet the very tight deadlines set.</p>
3.02	<p>Applying for eFSM</p> <p>Whilst UPFSM will be available to all primary aged children from 2024, those who remain eligible for eFSM (eligibility tested) still need to apply. Application does enable parents to access other grant funding, but this is limited.</p>
3.03	<p>eFSM application is also used for funding allocations to the Council and schools. For 2022/23 eFSM application data has been roughly calculated as providing a total of circa £10m grant funding, broken down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £6.1m in the Education element of the Revenue Support Grant (RSG); • £3.1m in the Pupil Development Grant (PDG) Schools grant; and • £619.5k for the PDG Access grant.
3.04	<p>There are concerns that the universal eligibility of UPFSM will see a marked reduction in the number of parents applying for eFSM, which could potentially have a significant financial impact on both schools and the Council.</p>
3.05	<p>Local communications have continued to reiterate the need for parents to apply for eFSM and this will need to be an ongoing to ensure those who are eligible for eFSM continue to apply in future years.</p>

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	<p>Consultation and engagement with secondary learners undertaken over the course of 4 workshops held:</p> <p>February 2023 / June 2023 / December 2023 / November 2024.</p> <p>Newydd Parent Survey - Hafod Federation</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1 – School Health Research Network (SHRN) Data</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Food tasting feedback</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Examples of progress</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Parent survey</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Healthy eating in maintained schools: statutory guidance June 2014 https://www.gov.wales/healthy-eating-maintained-schools-statutory-guidance</p> <p>Healthy eating in schools briefing for head teachers and governing bodies July 2022 https://www.wlga.wales/SharedFiles/Download.aspx?pageid=62&mid=665&fileid=1308</p> <p>Health eating in schools' governor training February 2024 https://www.wlga.wales/SharedFiles/Download.aspx?pageid=62&mid=665&fileid=4188</p> <p>School Health Research Network (SHRN) https://www.shrn.org.uk/</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Steve W Jones, Managing Director, Newydd Catering and Cleaning Telephone: 01352 704039 E-mail: steve.w.jones@newydd.wales</p> <p>Contact Officer: Claire Sinnott, Learning Advisor – Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding Telephone: 01352 704054 E-mail: Claire.h.sinnott@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

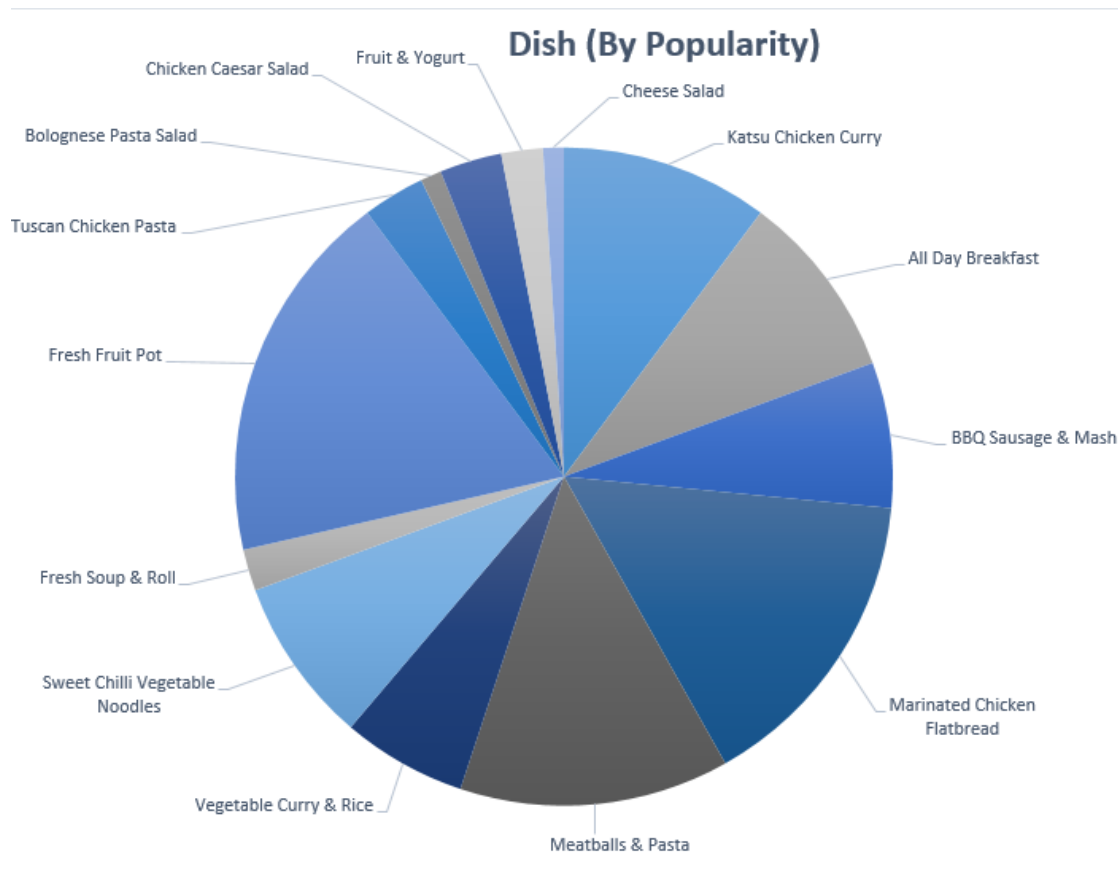
8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Public Health Wales (PHW): Public Health Wales is the national public health agency in Wales and exists to protect and improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities for people in Wales.</p> <p>School Health Research Network (SHRN): The School Health Research Network is a network of schools in Wales who have joined together with researchers, the Welsh Government and other organisations to support young people's health.</p>

School Health Research Network Flintshire Data 2019 – 2023 Food and Drink

Food and Drink	2019	2021	2023	Comparison	National Average
Water- Reported drinking water once a day or more	64%	65.2%	66.8%	Improved each year	Lower than NA
Fruit and Veg - Reported eating at least one portion of fruit or veg per day	45.4%	43.7%	44.2%	Improved since 2021	Lower than NA
Energy Drinks - Reported consuming at least one energy drink per day	4.7%	5.4%	6.2%	Area deteriorating each year	Above NA
Soft Drinks - Reported consuming at least one soft drink daily	17.9%	18.5%	19.4%	Area deteriorating each year	Above NA




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Feedback from pupils at Learner Voice Workshop February 2023



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Progress captured by pupils at November 2024 workshop:

<u>Ysgol Maes Garmon</u>		
Strengths 	Areas to Improve 	Progress 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now have more variety of products • Free fruit provision (3 days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have got the menus up but no price lists • 1 water cooler which is unreliable and we need more • Prices have increased for hot foods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menus now include prices • 3 water coolers across the whole school • Free fruit everyday

<u>Flint High School</u>		
Strengths 	Areas to Improve 	Progress 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New drinks added • Lunch times are staggered (canteen and pod area) • Good seating • Have many water fountains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed canteen currently • Limited menu due to the kitchen refurbishment • Prices are not well displayed • Canteen feels crowded • Packaging is not recyclable - lots of litter as no recycling bin (lots of plastic packaging) • Not enough hot food options for vegetarian / vegan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reopened - full menu now. • Prices still not well displayed. • less crowded - changed systems. • Some packaging has changed but not all of it. • More options than last year. • Extra water fountain.

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School meal survey – February 2024 (Parents)

Summary of responses

74% of all children have meals on most days

7% of children eligible for universal meals rarely have a meal

14% of children not eligible for universal meals rarely have a meal

Favourite meals include burger, pasta pot, chicken nuggets, roast and calzone, least favourite meals are fish based.

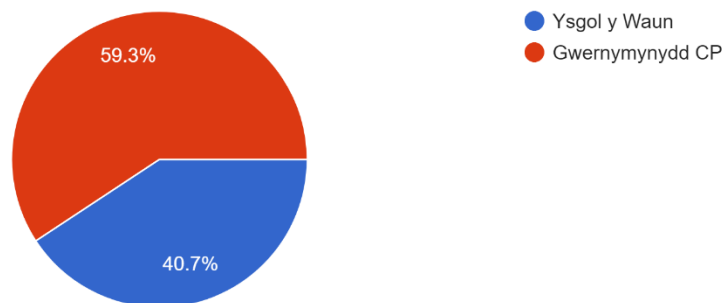
Over half the children use the salad bar regularly with lots of positive feedback.

Just under half the children use the yogurt bar regularly, and positive feedback on the selection but a few queries of the yogurt, including no alternative options for those who are dairy intolerant.

Other possible options for future include pie, chilli, fajitas, lasagne and noodles.

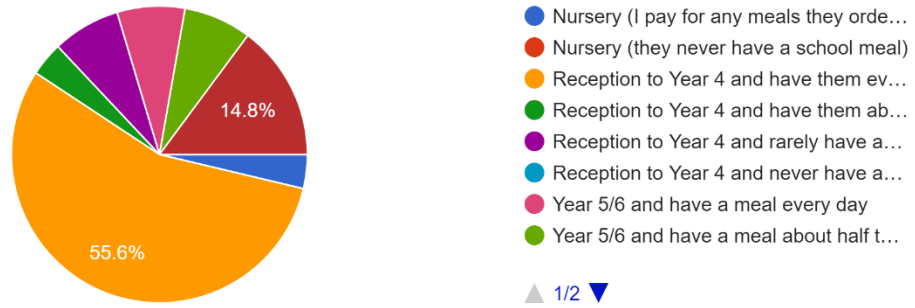
Concerns over size of portion as some children are saying they are still hungry.

My child attends
27 responses



Which year group are they and what meal uptake do they have currently?

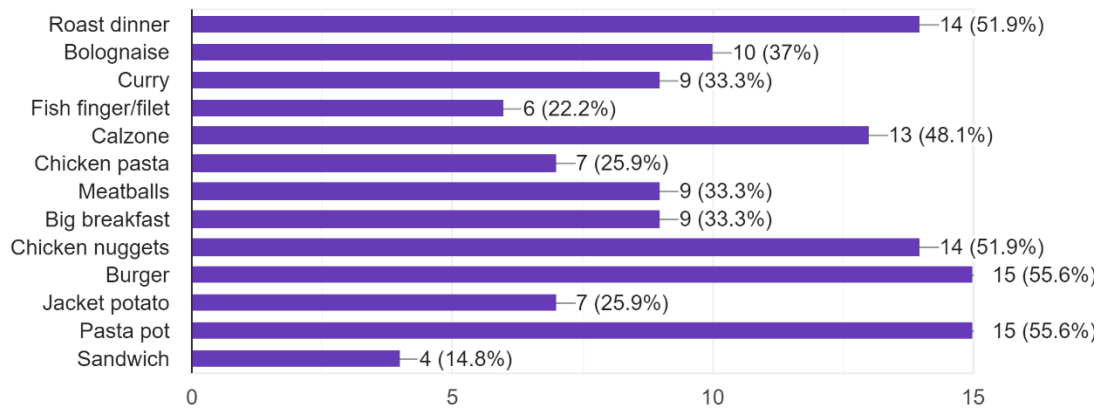
27 responses



Y5/6 and have rarely is the 14.8% (4 pupils)

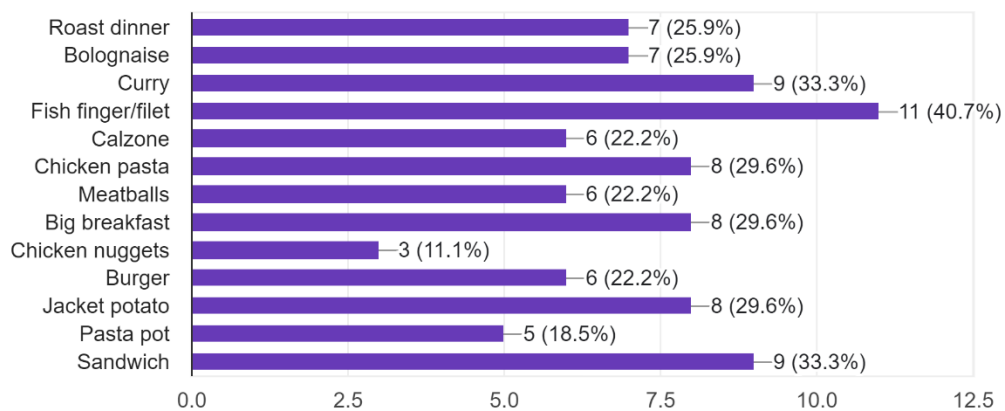
Which meals does your child say they enjoy the most? (please tick all that apply)

27 responses



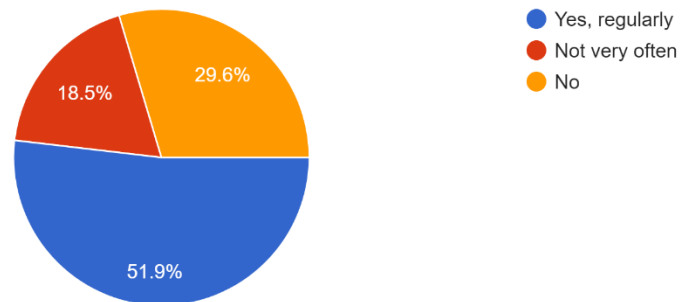
Which meals does your child say they enjoy the least? (please tick all that apply)

27 responses



Does your child say they use the salad bar?

27 responses



What do they think about the salad bar? 27 responses

Like the salad bar and selections

They love it

Good

Love it but are really restricted on how much they can have

Really generous of them. So the staff/teachers don't have to take it to each child. And it's really nice

Likes helping himself

5/10

No comment

Very good

Not at all interested

This and the yogurt bar are great

Love the different options

They love it and it's a great idea

Never mentioned it.

It's a good idea

My child would need encouragement to use the salad bar

Enjoy it

There could be more of it

Good idea but he doesn't eat salad

Na

It's healthy. Pick your own. Lots of choice.

Likes it

I like it very much! It's a nice add on

Really yummy.

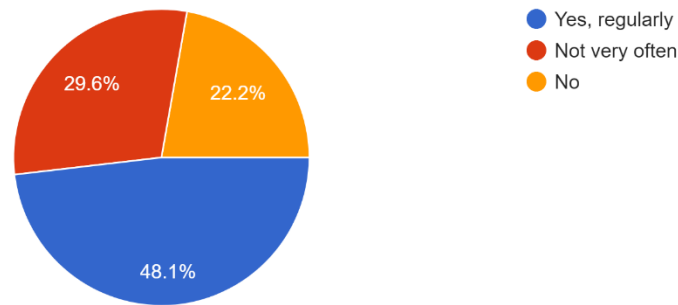
Not used, has school meals on Friday only

She likes it but doesn't eat veg unless pushed

My child isn't keen on salad produce, she will try but wouldn't naturally select it.

Does your child say they use the fruit and yogurt station?

27 responses



What do they think about the fruit and yogurt station? 27 responses

They like it, would prefer yogurt to have more flavours (told it's bland)
They love it
Good
Like the choices available
Really nice,
Doesn't like yoghurt
I would rather have a proper pudding or brownies.
Can't eat yogurt
Would like a wider variety of yogurt flavours.
Fruit and some yogurt
Excellent
Doesn't like the yoghurt but likes the different fruit options
They think amazing
Never mentioned it.
Good idea
They like it
Fruit compote
Loves the yoghurt and fruit compote
Great idea
Na
Don't like yogurt
Loves it
Healthy, fun and yummy
I love it and use it every time it's there.
Hasn't used it
She loves it so much I have to make one at home!
I wasn't aware of the fruit station, my child hasn't mentioned it. I would like to think she uses it.

Are there any foods you would like to see on the menu?

No 5 responses

More pasta 1 response

Toastie 1 response

. 1 response

More variety 1 response

Pie? She loves the soup so more soups 1 response

Pizza 1 response

Chicken fillets, mild chilli con carne, gammon 1 response

Not sure 1 response

Toasties , fajitas 1 response

Beef on the roast 1 response

Happy with current choice 1 response

I know it's hard to cater for such a variance of children with different preferences, but more diverse offerings would be good other than typical 'British' food and kids meals. E.g.

noodles, other curries etc 1 response

Hot dogs and brownies. 1 response

Burritos, taco Tuesday, normal pizza. 1 response

More fish 1 response

Maybe soup? 1 response

No ideas at the moment. 1 response

There is a good variety 1 response

None of it looks nice at all 1 response

Lasagne 1 response

N/a 1 response

Chinese Noodles 1 response

Do you have any comments about the food/menu?

.7 responses

No 4 responses

N/a 2 responses

Nothing additional. 1 response

Big breakfast has my favourite foods 1 response

Portions are too small 1 response

Portions not huge but staff offer extra 1 response

My child seems to enjoy the food that is on offer 1 response

Sadly my child is entitled to free school meals but she doesn't like the food supplied the only time she likes is what's on a Fridays menu ie nuggets, beef burger so I've to buy food and supply her with a packed lunch! At home my child eats curry, bolognaise, roast dinners, pasta dishes but she just doesn't like the school dinners unfortunately 1 response

The burgers are really greasy and the food always runs out so some kids don't get food 1 response

It isa shame pasta pot is no longer on the menu daily 1 response

No it's all good 1 response

Bring back school onsite cooks 1 response

Less fish and pizza 1 response

Not enough food. My child comes home saying he didn't have enough food to fill him up so will be going back to packed lunches from home 1 response

It could be more varied, my child is not a fussy eater but doesn't seem to enjoy many of the foods on the menu 1 response

Good variety and seems to like them. 1 response

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EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 28 th November 2024
Report Subject	Theatr Clwyd and School Music Service
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update and overview of Theatr Clwyd's work with young people following all activities moving to an independent charitable trust status in 2021.

Theatr Clwyd Trust and Theatr Clwyd Music Trust are now well established and despite the challenges of Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, cost of living crisis, and operating against the backdrop of a major capital project, both are making steady progress in achieving their ambitious business plan priorities.

Theatr Clwyd Trust is the third biggest client of the Arts Council of Wales (ACW) and delivers work across creative disciplines and cross generationally. As well as artistic delivery they also use partnership work to identify and co-create socially focused programmes – long standing partnerships include Social Services, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), and Police and Communities Trust (PACT).

Theatr Clwyd Music Trust is one of the key delivery mechanisms for the National Plan for Music Education which was established by Welsh Government in 2022. This ensures children and young people in Flintshire benefit from this important national initiative regardless of their financial circumstances.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That members note the developments of the Theatr Clwyd Trust and Theatr Clwyd Music Trust since their creation in 2021.
2	That members are assured that the Theatr Clwyd Trust and Music Trust are positively and actively delivering towards work with young people in Flintshire in both formalised educational settings and in other areas of delivery and continuing to develop on the National Music Service Plan.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THEATR CLWYD TRUST AND MUSIC TRUST
1.01	<u>Background</u> Theatr Clwyd became an independent charitable trust and trading group in 2021. The aim was to offer a more flexible operating model and take operating risk away from Flintshire County Council.
1.02	Theatr Clwyd Music Trust (TCMT) was set up specifically to deliver music education for young people, and with an aim to develop a new and sustainable business model.
1.03	Across the two trusts there are currently 153 core employees (this will rise closer to 240 over the next 12 months), with close to 50 having a focus on education, youth and communities work – all of whom use artistic practice as a tool for social change and learning.
1.04	<p>Following significant consultation with schools, musicians, parents and Flintshire County Council in 2019/20, a set of principles and a new financial model was agreed for music in the county. The new model was not introduced until September 2022 due to the impact of COVID-19. Updates were then reported at the Education, Youth & Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 2nd February 2023.</p> <p>It was previously reported that over the next five years, Theatr Clwyd’s Music Trust aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain and improve the quality and options of the Music Service• Continue to reduce costs for schools• Continue to reduce costs for parents• Increase choice for schools and parents• Ensure all families are charged the same across the county• Work towards a cost neutral model for schools• Reduce administrative burden on schools
1.05	<u>New Leadership for Theatr Clwyd Music</u> Following Aled Marshman stepping down as Director of TCMT in July 2023, Cath Sewell was appointed as the new Director and took up post in January

2024. Cath has a background leading learning programmes at venues and other UK Music Services.

During this first year, Cath has focussed on establishing stability and ensuring operational processes are fit of purpose after a period of significant change. A major part of this has been engaging the Music team, building a renewed sense of shared vision and purpose and also engaging with schools.

1.06 Review of schools offer and income model

Following feedback from schools regarding the first two academic years of delivery and the contribution paid for each pupil having an instrumental or vocal lesson in school, a new model was proposed and, after consultation with teachers and the Primary and Secondary Heads' Federations, this was adopted from September 2024.

The new model removes the school contribution per lesson (an unpredictable cost for schools, even more so as a byproduct of Theatr Clwyd taking on all administration as requested). For clarity, although schools are now not contributing to lessons, we still offer young people lessons as in all previous models. This is the first time schools in Flintshire have not had to contribute.

Reducing school contributions to 0% has been offset by a small increase in lesson cost to parents (around 11%) and we are piloting a new subscription offer for schools. This subscription offer asks schools to pay a yearly fee in return for workshops, live performances, training and curriculum support. This allows schools to manage their budgets, whilst also ensuring Theatr Clwyd can continue to develop the new and sustainable operating model for music education. Alongside the subscription, we are also promoting the wider buy in of weekly whole class and ensembles. Details of the subscription are included in Appendix 1 (5.01).

The take up of the subscription has been lower than predicted - we have 14 schools currently signed up but this does allow us to focus on a high quality offer for fewer schools in this pilot year. Schools have also signed up to the First Experiences Follow On offer (which extends the initial free First Experiences delivery to a full academic year) and also ensembles and groups (figures below).

Subscription plus First Experiences Follow On	7
Southdown Primary School	
St Mary's Catholic Primary School	
Westwood Primary School	
Ysgol Bro Carmel	
Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint	
Ysgol Glanrafon, Yr Wyddgrug // Mold	
Ysgol Pen Coch	

	Subscription	7
	Argoed High School	
	Flint High School	
	Hawarden High School	
	Broughton Primary School	
	Sealand C.P. School	
	Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton	
	Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt	
	First Experiences Follow On	4
	Rhos Helyg	
	St John the Baptist	
	Ysgol Bryn Garth	
	Ysgol Maes y Felin	
	Other Sessions or Groups	5
	Southdown Primary School	
	St John the Baptist CiW School	
	St Mary's Catholic Primary School	
	Ysgol Glanrafon, Yr Wyddgrug // Mold	
	Argoed High School	

1.07

Overview of Pupil Numbers

Numbers of young people having lessons have continued to increase with 1121 having individual or group lessons in school. We have simplified the group lesson option from September 2024 (groups of 2 pupils are 20 minute lessons and groups of 3 are 30 minutes). The breakdown of learners per schools are included in Appendix 2 (5.02).

We also have 233 students on the waiting list, demonstrating a continuing demand for lessons. We will continue to develop our team of Music Associates to meet this demand, which has become increasingly important for the financial model having reduced school contributions in full.

Most schools continue to fund lessons for both eFSM learners and GCSE and A-level music students. In 2024/25 we have 95 eFSM pupils having lessons funded by school, and schools are currently paying for lessons for 130 GCSE and A-level students.

1.08

First Experiences

This has been a major area of development over the last 2 years. During 2023/2024 this programme was delivered in 61 schools and reached 1560 year 3 pupils. This year, Theatr Clwyd are delivering the programme in all 65 Primary schools and 2 special schools in the county and it will reach 1900 year 3 pupils.

We have also moved to a new delivery model with half the schools in the county having sessions during September to February; and half from February to July. Each school has 17 sessions in total plus a culmination concert. Significant time was spent evaluating the programme and delivering training for the First Experiences Team in Summer 2024 and there are 4 training and evaluation sessions this academic year.

The table below tracks the development of the programme:

Year	Number of learners (whole class and First Experiences)
2020/21	0
2021/22	105
2022/23	800
2023/24	1560
2024/25	1900

The First Experiences programme is made possible by funding from the Wales National Music Service. Theatr Clwyd implements this funding to ensure all First Experiences are free to schools and young people, and pupils receive a high quality, sustained opportunity to learn instrumental and singing skills. This is not delivered to the same depth or extent in all counties in Wales.

There has been an informal verbal notification that the National Music Service funding will be continued for 2025/26 and this should be confirmed in November. Funding for the next two years is expected to be announced in late Spring 2025. Amounts have not been confirmed but there will be a further “small” cut in addition to the 10% reduction received for the 2024/25 financial year.

Some quotes from teachers about the programme:

“We have a child who rarely joins in, shies away from any kind of performances and often appears not to be engaged. I did wonder whether he could be doing something else instead during the session time until he told me that he enjoys the sessions. His parent told me that he has been talking

	<p><i>about different note names and wondered what notes a band (they were watching on tv) were playing. I think this is evidence of the First Experiences sparking curiosity and creative thinking despite some challenges some of the children are experiencing.”</i></p> <p><i>‘Such opportunities are more important than ever. If we are to enrich pupil's lives with the arts as the new curriculum for Wales promotes, then having the experience of live music and theatre is so important. Budget cuts will mean many schools will not be able to provide such opportunities and for many pupils its only through school that they get the exposure to the arts.’</i></p>
1.09	<p><u>Progression and Ensemble Development</u></p> <p>TCMT Ensembles have continued to develop and numbers are continuing to increase. We have 9 ensembles which cover a range of instruments, voice and genres. From September 2024, Beginner Strings and Windband are offering a group learning opportunity for total beginners including providing an instrument.</p> <p>We have also built a partnership with Denbighshire and Wrexham Music Cooperatives to launch new Tri-County Ensembles. Over 120 young instrumentalists and singers from Flintshire, Denbighshire and Wrexham came together in March 2024 for the Tri-County Ensembles course which culminated in a concert at William Aston Hall (part of Theatr Clwyd’s operations). With an audience of over 350, there were performances by the three new Tri-County Ensembles: the String Orchestra, a Fusion Band (combination of wind band and jazz band) and Junior and Senior Choirs.</p> <p>Some comments from students and parents following the Tri County performance:</p> <p><i>‘I enjoyed most the atmosphere of everyone together and the band playing with all the instruments playing together with I think sounded amazing.’ Fusion Band member</i></p> <p><i>‘I enjoyed the whole choir singing together, I also enjoyed performing on the stage at William Aston Hall. It was good to meet people that share the same interest in music as me.’ Choir member</i></p> <p><i>‘We cannot thank you enough for giving our daughter the wonderful opportunity to take part She has never sung to anyone but her singing teacher, your team expertly supported her autism... The concert was exceptional, an utter joy to see the amazing talent supported by your team.’ Parent</i></p>

The table below provides a summary of numbers having lessons and taking part in ensembles.

Year	Number of learners (Small group and individual)	Number of Learners in Ensembles
2020/21	397	0
2021/22	975	65
2022/23	1160	81
2023/24	1073	101
2024/25	1121	113

1.10 Music with Pupils with ALN and Special Schools

Both Flintshire's Special Schools have been involved with the First Experiences in both 2023/24 and 2024/25. Sessions have been adapted to work with their pupils' specific needs and they were able to play a full part in the performance at William Aston Hall. Both schools have music specialist teacher based in school and they are working with Theatr Clwyd to develop further programmes of work in 2024/25 which will include an accessible music technology pilot. This is a focus area for Theatr Clwyd Music in the next 18 months.

1.11 Live Music Experiences and Workshops

Theatr Clwyd continue to offer schools the chance to experience live music and inspirational one-off workshops. The most significant of these recently was the First Experience Culmination Concert in April 2024, created in partnership with BBC NOW and which reached 1500 year 3s.

A number of ensembles have been toured performances in our schools, including BBC NOW and Sinfonia Cymru in 2023/24. Performances by TC Music Associates and youth ensembles are an important part of our offer to schools.

A residency was hosted with the Benedetti Foundation in June and July 2024. 90 string players from Flintshire, Wrexham and Denbighshire attended a String Day on 7th June and 20 Music Associates took part in training linked to this. There were then 6 workshops delivered in Flintshire schools in July.

1.12 National Plan and Regional Meetings

In January 2024 the Welsh Government cut £500K from the National Music Service funding which has led to a £15000 reduction (7.4%) in TC's National Music Service funding. Originally it was £203,250, it was reduced to £188,250 for 23/24 and remains at this level for 24/25.

	Cath regularly attends meetings with the North Wales Music Services as well as National Music Service events.
1.13	<p><u>Links with Creative Engagement work</u></p> <p>Alongside music delivery, Theatr Clwyd has a wide range of regular work with young people. The majority of the Creative Engagement work focuses on engagement outside of educational settings, including 300 people between the ages of 4 and 25 who attend weekly 'Adra' (Home) sessions. These include drama, writing, stage management, dance and musical theatre groups as well as TC's Fuse groups for learning disabled young people.</p>
1.14	<p><u>Social Services Partnership</u></p> <p>Theatr Clwyd has a long standing relationship with Social Services in Flintshire working with many of the most vulnerable young people in the county on a regular basis. These has led to 40% of the young people in the Adra programmes receiving bursaries (a significant move from a mostly middleclass paid for model in 2018) with the majority of these also on travel bursaries allowing them to attend sessions.</p> <p>Due to this work Theatr Clwyd have put in significant support workers for young people and supervision for the professional facilitators who often handle complicated disclosures. With strong partnership work this is passed onto social workers and Theatr Clwyd Company Members are regularly involved in case reviews alongside other professional services.</p> <p>In partnership with Craig Macleod, Chief Officer for Social Services, and his senior team, Theatr Clwyd are drafting a five year strategy for this important area of work.</p>
	<p><u>Youth Service and Youth Justice Services Partnership</u></p> <p>Theatr Clwyd continue to deliver work in partnership with Police and Communities Trust (PACT) on youth justice and crime based on specific need. This most recently, and worryingly most regularly, focuses on County Lines, and also consent for young women, especially online. These programmes are being remodelled to reduce the 'drop in' element of the work and match Theatr Clwyd's wider work which aims for long term and sustained relationships with young people.</p>
1.15	<p><u>Youth Board</u></p> <p>Theatr Clwyd are twelve months into having a Youth Board of members between 12-25 years old. This board is recognised formally as a subcommittee of the full Board of Trustees, and the Youth Board Chair (who is required to be over 18) has a position as full trustee, with the Vice Chair having observer status at full Board meetings.</p> <p>The Executive team attend all Youth Board meetings, and the Board are currently working up plans for a significant survey to distribute across the county for young people to offer their feedback on what Theatr Clwyd could be doing for them.</p>

1.16	<p><u>Other Work in Schools</u></p> <p>Theatr Clwyd recently worked in partnership with Ysgol Treffynnon to deliver a full 'Take Over Week'. This consisted of most lessons being taken over by Theatr Clwyd arts facilitators, delivering everything from history and maths to science and Geography through artistic delivery methods. At lunch and break time live music was played and available for students to take part in, and during the week 60 young people came together each afternoon to create a sharing. The change reported and seen in the young people was significant - happiness, calmness and friendships across year groups. This is a model both Theatr Clwyd and the school really believe works, and plans are in place to develop this further and deliver in other high schools as another way of supporting delivery of the new curriculum.</p>
1.17	<p><u>Safeguarding</u></p> <p>Theatr Clwyd takes seriously its responsibilities to keep people safe. All the team have safeguarding training regularly and all new members have training as part of their induction. Strong policies have been ratified by Theatr Clwyd's safeguarding group, alongside an independent third party review, and given the significant amount of safeguarding expertise the Theatr Clwyd team have through their partnership with Social Services, the safeguarding work continues to be robust and thorough.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	No additional resource implications to Flintshire County Council.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT							
3.01	<p>Service risks are recorded and monitored through the Theatr Clwyd Trust and Theatr Clwyd Music Trust's operational management processes and reported regularly to both Board of Trustees. Reporting also regularly takes place to Arts Council Wales, and via Flintshire's Scrutiny Committee's.</p> <p>The operations of Theatr Clwyd make a significant contribution to Wales' Well-being Goals as outlined in the table below:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 1671 1380 2024"> <tr> <td data-bbox="328 1671 743 1742">Prosperous Wales</td> <td data-bbox="751 1671 1372 1742">Economic Impact through jobs, supply chains and tourism in the area.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="328 1753 743 1928">Resilient Wales</td> <td data-bbox="751 1753 1372 1928">Theatr Clwyd's Capital project will be the most eco friendly retro fitted theatre building in Europe. Their youth and community work focuses on climate anxiety in young people.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="328 1939 743 2024">Healthier Wales</td> <td data-bbox="751 1939 1372 2024">Arts and Music is well documented as having a strong and positive impact on people's health and well-being.</td> </tr> </table>		Prosperous Wales	Economic Impact through jobs, supply chains and tourism in the area.	Resilient Wales	Theatr Clwyd's Capital project will be the most eco friendly retro fitted theatre building in Europe. Their youth and community work focuses on climate anxiety in young people.	Healthier Wales	Arts and Music is well documented as having a strong and positive impact on people's health and well-being.
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Healthier Wales	Arts and Music is well documented as having a strong and positive impact on people's health and well-being.							

	More equal Wales	Theatr Clwyd's work with social services reaches families who would not have access to provision otherwise. Arts and creative thinking is well documented to widen scope and thinking for social mobility and critical thinking.
	Cohesive Wales	Arts are seen as a way for people to connect, discuss, and understand other cultures and views. Theatr Clwyd's work with social services and other partners looks to tackle social challenges.
	Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	A vibrant Wales is one of arts and culture, and Theatr Clwyd is recognized as world class in its field, delivering work in both English and Welsh. Welsh Language use is encouraged in young people – TC deliver dedicated Welsh Language groups for young people.
	Globally responsible Wales	Theatr Clwyd's work is internationally recognised, brings global themes to Flintshire, and offers opportunity for building international relations on behalf of Wales

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	<p>Ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flintshire Communities • Secondary Schools • Families • Young People • Primary School Consultation; Headteachers Federation and smaller delegation from Headteachers Federation • Social Services • Company Voice

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Schools Subscription Package
5.02	Appendix 2 – Schools Learner Numbers
5.03	Appendix 3 – Theatr Clwyd Flintshire Impact Report for 2023/24

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	N/A

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Liam Evans-Ford, CEO of Theatr Clwyd Trust and Chair of Theatr Clwyd Music Trust Liam.evansford@theatrclwyd.com</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>National Plan for Music Education Wales: Welsh Government plan to support the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales whilst providing a strategic and sustainable approach to ensure a diverse and equitable music education is accessible for our children and young people from ages 3 to 16.</p> <p>First Experiences: programme of work from National Plan for Music Education Wales. Developed with the aim of simultaneously inspiring children and young people and providing professional learning support to classroom practitioners.</p> <p>Live Music Experiences: programme of work from National Plan for Music Education Wales. Experience is an integral part of learning in the Expressive Arts. The experiential aspect of music is important for our children and young people to explore rich, authentic experiences in the Arts, both in and outside schools and settings to learn and celebrate music.</p> <p>Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama: our National conservatoire; it provides specialist practical and performance – based training in music and drama, enabling students to enter and influence the world of music, theatre and related professions.</p> <p>Pupil Development Grant (PDG) – Funding from WG to schools on a per pupil basis to support the educational attainment of pupils entitled to Free School Meals where there is a greater risk of underachievement.</p>

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Theatr Clwyd Music

Schools' Programme 2024/25

1. Instrumental and vocal lessons

We have previously asked schools to financially contribute towards every lesson taking place in school.

Schools have no direct control over how many pupils sign up for lessons (this is done directly by a parent/carer) so the amount each school has to pay depends on the number of lessons taking place.

There was **negative feedback from schools about this system due to its unpredictability.**

Current model:

	Individual 30 min	Individual 20 min	Group of 2 (30 mins)	Group of 3 (30 mins)
Yearly charge (paid by parent)	£570.00	£380.00	£245.00	£160.00
Cost per lesson	£16.76	£11.18	£7.21	£4.71
Per lesson (total from parents)	£16.76	£11.18	£14.41	£14.12
TCMT Charge	£19.10	£12.73	£19.10	£19.10
School contribution (per lesson)	£2.34	£1.56	£4.69	£4.98

In 2024/25 we will remove the school contribution for lessons, facilitated by an increase in cost to parents/carers.

Additionally, there will no longer be a choice of a group of 2 or a group of 3. Group lessons will still be an option but if there are 2 pupils signed up, the lessons will be 20 minutes and, when 3 pupils have signed up, the lessons will be 30 minutes.

The new model:

	Individual 30 min	Individual 20 min	Group of 2 (20 mins)	Group of 3 (30 mins)
Yearly charge	£648	£432	£180	£180
Cost per pupil per lesson	£19.06	£12.71	£5.29	£5.29
Per lesson (total)	£19.06	£12.71	£10.59	£15.88

Change in cost per year to parents/carers:

Individual - 30 minute (150 current pupils) - £78 increase (12%)

Individual - 20 minute (240 current pupils) - £52 increase (12%)

Group of 2 - 20 minutes (165 current pupils) - £65 decrease in cost but 10 minute (5 min per pupil) reduction in lesson time

Group of 3 - 30 minutes (450 current pupils) - £20 increase (11%)

We feel these increases are not excessive and charges have remained the same for the last 3 years although we do recognise cost is still a major barrier for some pupils.

Schools will continue to support the cost of lessons for pupils who qualify for the Pupil Development Grant (PDG) and those taking GCSE and A-level music.

By **removing the per lesson cost to schools, we encourage schools to sign up to the new Schools Subscription or additional services (ensembles, workshops)**, investing in high quality music and expressive arts in school and continuing to support the Music Service.

2. Theatr Clwyd School Subscription

Our School Subscription is a wide ranging offer, supporting pupils, teachers and your wider school community through the creative arts. Alongside music, we are working with the Creative Engagement Team to ensure a broad offer across art forms.

Through signing up to the scheme, schools will have access* to:

- 2 free creative, multi-artform workshops per year
- 1 live music performance
- Monthly online twilight teacher training
- Support for creating an Expressive Arts strategy for your school
- Support for Arts Council Wales initiative applications (eg: Lead Creative School, Go and See)
- Support with school productions and concerts
- Loan of classroom instruments (xylophones, drums, recorders)
- Projects including Schools' Gig Night and Big Sings
- Ticket offers for shows for school groups
- Wellbeing offer and ticket scheme for school staff
- Music Mark Membership (UK Music Education Sector Organisation)
- The opportunity to be involved in the Curriculum Support pilot scheme

This also will be developed further with the reopening of the Theatr Clwyd building in 2025 and in response to ongoing feedback from schools.

Cost to schools: **£1500 per year or £2000 including a FE Follow On programme**

£150 early bird discount for schools who book before 15th July 2024

*some of this offer will be subject to availability

3. First Experiences

The First Experiences programme of whole-class instrumental teaching, offered **free of charge to all year 3 students in Flintshire will be continued in 2024-25.**

The programme continues to aim to give pupils the opportunity to learn an instrument in a fun and relaxed environment, whilst also building skills and confidence through singing, musical games and performances.

Sessions are co-delivered with a Theatr Clwyd Music Associate working alongside school staff, providing a valuable opportunity for classroom practitioners to develop their own confidence delivering music activities in the broader curriculum.

We will be encouraging the use of **Charanga** online resources. Charanga has been made available through Wales National Music Service free of charge to all schools and music services

Changes for 2024/25:

All primary schools will **have 17 weekly sessions over the academic year** lasting up to an hour. These will take place either September 2024 – February 2025 or February 2025 – July 2025.

The 17 sessions will include a setup session and a final performance.

All schools will have an instrumental element to their First Experiences lessons alongside singing and musical skills. No schools will be only offered singing.

First Experiences is funded by Wales National Music Service

4. Follow on from First Experiences

We're offering schools the **option to buy in an additional 17 sessions** with a Music Associate, giving pupils the chance to follow on from the First Experiences sessions and providing a pathway to starting instrumental or vocal lessons.

Schools will get an hour of delivery time which can be broken down into shorter sessions for smaller groups of pupils or continue to work with the full class. **Instruments are provided** and there may also be the option for pupils to try different instruments from the same family, such as cello and viola (strings), trombone and tenor horn (brass) clarinet and flute (woodwind).

While the follow on sessions could be used for the whole class to continue sessions, we suggest they are **aimed at pupils who are enthusiastic about carrying on from First Experiences.** Smaller group sessions can be delivered by a Theatr Clwyd Music Associate without the support of school staff. Full class sessions should be co-delivered alongside school staff.

Cost to schools: **£650 (17 x 1 hour sessions) or £500 added as part of school subscription (total subscription cost £2000) .**

5. Large groups lessons and ensembles

Theatr Clwyd Music Associates can deliver large group teaching, ensembles, choirs, or run an after school musical after school club.

Cost to schools: **£38.20 per hour** (minimum booking 30 minutes and 1 term).

6. Workshops and live music

We can offer one off workshops to support the curriculum across any art form (music, dance, drama, visual art, film). We will be working with Creative Engagement Team to deliver these sessions and can tailor these to your school. We can also bring live music performances to your school.

Two workshops and one live performance and included in the School Subscription.

Cost to schools: **£180 (up to 3 hours) and £250 (up to 5 hours)** and a live music performance (with up to 5 musicians) would be **£180 (up to 1 hour)**

This information will be available in both English and Welsh on the Theatr Clwyd Website from June 2024

For queries or further information please contact:

Cath Sewell

Director of Theatr Clwyd Music Trust | Cyfarwyddwr Ymddiriedolaeth Cerddoriaeth Theatr Clwyd

01352 609472

cath.sewell@theatrclwyd.com

Learners by School (individual and group lessons)	Dec-23	May-24	Oct-24	+/-
Abermorddu C.P. School	10	10	7	-3
Alun High School, Mold	58	49	63	14
Argoed High School, Mynydd Isa	38	38	50	12
Broughton Primary School, Broughton	38	51	50	-1
Castell Alun High School, Hope	86	80	78	-2
Connah's Quay High School, Connah's Quay	7	9	5	-4
Cornist Park Primary School, Flint	8	3	2	-1
Deeside Sixth Form	0	1	5	4
Derwen Foundation Primary School, Higher Kinnerton	33	24	33	9
Drury Primary School, Buckley	14	17	16	-1
Elfed High School, Buckley	39	41	47	6
Ewloe Green Primary School, Ewloe	45	34	34	0
Flint High School, Flint	74	74	85	11
Golftyn C.P. School, Connah's Quay	0	1	3	2
Gwernymynydd C.P. School, Gwernymynydd	12	10	7	-3
Hawarden High School, Hawarden	68	68	61	-7
Hawarden Village CiW Primary School, Hawarden	66	57	94	37
Lixwm CiW Primary School, Lixwm	10	10	9	-1
Mountain Lane Primary School, Buckley	20	20	27	7
Nannerch V.C. Primary School, Nannerch	7	8	6	-2
Northop Hall C.P. School, Northop	20	7	17	10
Penarlag C.P. School, Ewloe	10	9	8	-1
Queensferry C.P. School, Queensferry	1	1	1	0
Sealand C.P. School, Deeside	0	2	0	-2
Sandycroft C.P. School, Deeside			1	1
St David's High School, Saltney	1	1	2	1
St David's Catholic Primary School, Mold	7	8	5	-3
St John the Baptist CiW School, Penymynydd	26	25	32	7
St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Flint	3	2	2	0

St Mary's Nercwys CiW Primary School, Nercwys	9	2	1	-1
St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School, Flint	34	30	33	3
St Winefride's Catholic Primary School, Holywell			1	1
Venerable Edward Morgan Catholic Primary School, Shotton	4	6	7	1
Wepre Primary School, Connah's Quay	1	1	1	0
Westwood Primary School, Buckley	1	1	1	0
Ysgol Bro Carmel, Holywell	9	11	6	-5
Ysgol Bryn Coch, Mold	25	31	52	21
Ysgol Bryn Gwalia, Mold			1	1
Ysgol Brynffordd, Brynford	2	3	3	0
Ysgol Cae'r Nant, Connah's Quay	6	5	5	0
Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint	5	5	7	2
Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton	7	9	7	-2
Ysgol Estyn, Hope	23	29	28	-1
Ysgol Glanrafon, Yr Wyddgrug // Mold	66	71	74	3
Ysgol Gwenffrwd, Holywell	3	3	4	1
Ysgol Gwynedd, Flint	1	2	2	0
Ysgol Maes Garmon, Yr Wyddgrug	39	34	37	3
Ysgol Maesglas, Greenfield	1	1	0	-1
Ysgol Merllyn, Bagillt	3	3	1	-2
Ysgol Mornant, Picton	8	1	1	0
Ysgol Mynydd Isa (Junior site)	13	5	6	1
Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop	2	14	13	-1
Ysgol Parc y Llan, Treuddyn	28	2	2	0
Ysgol Penyffordd	2	28	36	8
Ysgol Rhos Helyg, Rhosesmor	11	3	3	0
Ysgol Sychdyn	12	14	11	-3
Ysgol Terrig, Treuddyn	3	12	11	-1
Ysgol Treffynnon, Holywell	7	2	2	0
Ysgol Trelogan	8	5	3	-2

Ysgol Tŷ Ffynnon, Shotton	7	5	3	-2
Ysgol y Foel, Cilcain	3	8	5	-3
Ysgol Y Waun, Gwernaffield	0	4	3	-1
Ysgol Yr Esgob CiW, Caerwys			1	1
	1044	1010	1121	111

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Theatr
Clwyd

impact & activity

Flintshire | Headline Report







Theatr Clwyd is one of the UK's leading cultural organisations. We create acclaimed and award-winning shows that both bring significant audiences to our home in Flintshire, but also tour in Wales and beyond.

As equally important are our community and creative engagement programmes which, in **Arts & Health, Civic Responsibility** and **Social Care**, we are industry-leading and held as exemplars of good practice.

We take our responsibility to Flintshire incredibly seriously - our organisation is an **economic driver**, a source of **civic pride**, a **cultural resource**, an **educational hub** and much more. As such our organisation belongs to every person and every community in our county - from Flint and Connahs Quay, to Buckley and Shotton - without exception **we are for everyone**.

Our mission is to serve our communities in making the world a happier place, one moment at a time.

Liam Evans-Ford
Executive Director & Joint CEO

Kate Wasserberg
Artistic Director & Joint CEO



53,208 free tickets
to our communities*



2,600 children
having music lessons
in Flintshire each week



2 million people
have attended a Theatr
Clwyd event around the UK*



5,000+ tickets
sold for our Family Festival
at Wepre Park in 2022



39% from Flintshire
we serve local audience
and drive tourism



8,000+ kids
have a school visit to come
see our panto



LGBTQIA+
we run a specific group to
support young people



50+ new plays
by Welsh playwrights
since 2017



📷 Summer Hubs for at risk young people during the Covid pandemic (2020)

The creative passion, energy and commitment of Theatr Clwyd to engage and support children is refreshing and inspiring.

We have developed a strong partnership with Theatr Clwyd that centres on an inclusive and adaptive approach to working with the children and young people supported by Social Services. The ethos and approach is far from a traditional ‘service’ and ‘place’ based approach. The Theatre takes a wholly unique approach to their community based work, listening to what children and young people want, and co-producing activities with them. Activities take place in community settings as well as opening and handing over Theatre spaces to our children, often adapting them to ensure inclusive access to all. Our young people have been involved in creative writing, story-telling, acting, combat skills, fashion design, singing, song writing, learning and playing music instruments and most importantly we have seen children develop positive childhood memories based on laughter, friendship, and mutual support. The shared experience has created a ‘micro’ family where young people are supporting and encouraging each other.

The programmes run by the Theatre really break down barriers, reach out, engage and enable young people to contribute their ideas and skills.

They not only enhance the confidence and experience of children and young people but they are expanding their future aspirations. We have a young person, who is looked after, who is now firmly sighted on becoming a fashion designer.

In Social Services we have seen children develop and flourish through their involvement with the Theatre, sometimes the steps may seem small but we know they are huge leaps for the individual child.

One young person has been able to tell his social worker what is important to him and the support he feels he needs by using a puppet show. This was inspired by his involvement with the Theatre, before this he did not contribute to his assessment, but now has found a way to communicate his feelings and aspirations to help us support him and his development. The possibilities of supporting our community are vast and matched by the unique ambition and creativity of the Theatre to be inclusive of all parts of our local community.

Craig Macleod

Head of Social Services at Flintshire County Council



Social Care

We work with partner organisations including **Flintshire County Council Social Services** and **PACT** (Police And Community Together) to deliver a range of acclaimed projects that combine social care, civic pride, personal responsibility and health & wellbeing for the most disadvantaged in our society.



Key Takeaways

- **We work with social services on a referral basis** to provide holiday hubs for the most vulnerable young people in Flintshire - referrals have increased year-on-year.
- Over 130 young people now attend our **weekly sessions with bursaries**, learning new skills and gaining confidence and social skills. 40% receive transport bursaries.
- Our bespoke programme for young people about the major issue of consent has been seen by over **1,200** individuals. Our long-running Justice in a Day programme addresses anti-social behaviours and the consequences of crime - reaching over 1,400 people since 2022.



Consent

This transformative project uses dynamic interactive theatre to educate young individuals about consent.

Through practical scenarios and open discussions, it equips them with essential skills for respectful and effective communication.



Summer Hubs

We worked with children aged 7 to 16 - mostly from areas of social deprivation and low educational attainment - with emotional needs (incl. high anxiety), disabilities (incl. autism), or excluded from mainstream education, providing respite for carers and developing trust and communication and social skills.



Justice In A Day

This vital initiative collaborates with the police and courts for proactive crime prevention.

Through early intervention programs, it educates young people on the consequences of criminal behavior, fostering understanding and deterring illegal activities.

Case Study: Summer Hubs



“The two-week summer hub would appear to activate some important psychological processes that are essential for development and healing.”

Dr Steve Noone (Bangor University)

Theatr Clwyd’s ‘Summer Hubs’ project worked with 53 vulnerable young people, aged 7 to 16 - predominantly from areas of high social deprivation and low educational attainment - with significant emotional needs (incl. high anxiety, depression), disabilities (incl. autism), or excluded from mainstream education. All the participants have social workers and have systemic experience of failure causing complex emotional, motivational and social scarring, and extremely challenging behavioural traits.

***“My daughter is very very very socially anxious.
It’s very hard to get her involved”***

Participant Parent

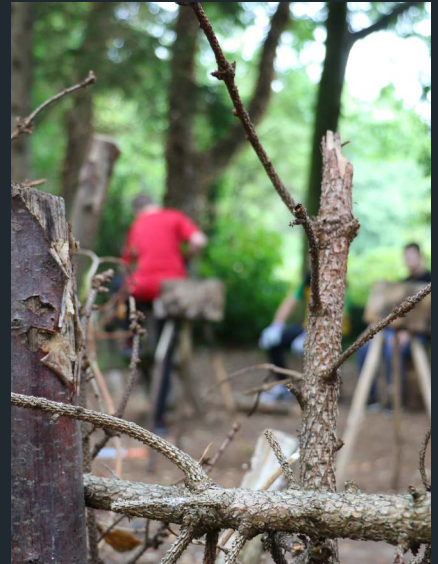
The two-week project – run alongside experienced and knowledgeable social workers from Flintshire County Council was expanded in 2023 due to an unprecedented number of referrals. Providing respite and bespoke care it recognises that mainstream education can struggle with a lack of capacity and specialists to help repair participant’s eroded trust in adults.

The project creates positive role models and provide focused emotional and social support in a safe environment where positive attainment and success can be used to be both motivating and emotionally transformational.

“It has made a massive difference to my daughters overall mental health”

Participant Parent

Run by 30 cross-discipline artists (including actors, dancers and musicians) from Theatr Clwyd at the semi-rural Northop Campus of Wrexham University the door-to-door service includes transport is provided by local taxi company and begins, daily, with communal breakfast. Many participants have an unstable home-life, so the two daily meals create stability, healthy-eating and social skills.



Our process begins with exploratory discussion - honestly sharing thoughts, feelings and emotions – discovering participant’s values and interests. This exploratory phase is vital in guiding how sessions develop organically. Inclusive team-building games follow, creating a safe space, without division or competition – there are no elimination games, instead a focus on collaboration, eye-contact, and importantly laughter.

“It’s been a godsend for us. It gives us a much needed break!”

Participant Guardian



Emerging themes and personal values are then workshopped to ensure that the ‘creation outcome’ is wholly driven by the participant. This ownership is vital in building trust, focused engagement and also pride. The regular group sharing of ideas helps to develop inter-social skills and confidence. A broad palette of artforms are introduced – participants will try drama, dance, music and visual arts - as we search for the spark of interest and skill that all participants have, but may not know about or be confident enough to explore.

While outcomes included a short film, script writing and performance, they are not the primary objective - the process in creating positive moment of success, trust and inclusion is the driving force for enabling new skills, confidence, as well as, challengingly, disclosures.

The project is the most challenging Theatr Clwyd has ever run. Challenging behaviours, from tipping paint onto a carpet to physical and emotional aggression is a daily part of the process. However this boundary pushing behaviour, and the second chances that are given are vital in creating a trusting and safe environment for young people whose existence can be exclusionary and on the edge of society at times.

“We are grateful to the theatre for the role they have played in working with us to support our community”

Craig Macleod | Flintshire County Council Social Services

A comparable pre-pandemic project had an estimated Social Return On Investment of every £1 invested in the project returned approximately £8.80 of social value (Theatr Clwyd SROI study).





Music Education

Theatr Clwyd Music is the leading provider of music education in Flintshire delivering music experiences to **over 2,600 participants every week** both in primary and secondary schools. The establishment of this provision ensured that there would continue to be high-quality, affordable musical education in Flintshire when the service was at risk.

Key Takeaways

- **430 hours of music tuition each week** is delivered across Flintshire
- **Over 2,600 pupils** each week learn with us
- **40% of our learners are learning entirely for free** through the ambitious *First Experiences* programme
- The school receiving the most hours of weekly tuition is **Flint High**
- We are investing in local people, building a **sustainable, affordable** service.



Music Lessons

We employ **32 professional musicians** who teach in **95 schools in Flintshire**.

Music lessons enhance a child's cognitive skills, foster creativity and promote discipline. Learning an instrument improves academic performance and emotional well-being.



Ensembles

Over **100 young people** play in our musical ensembles cultivating teamwork, communication and hard work.

Ensembles foster social skills, boost self-esteem, and provide a sense of accomplishment, enriching a child's development.



Schools

Our music lessons are for everyone with prices from **as little as £4.70** a lesson.

Music lessons in schools contribute to a well-rounded education, promoting working together, self-expression, and emotional intelligence.



A hub, a comfort, a haven.


Austerity has bitten hard in the last decade; local authorities are now given less to deal with more; theatres have had to become places of refuge and inspiration for those who may never see a play there. Show young people that a theatre is theirs to play in and they will make sure it continues.

Flintshire and Clwyd have identified a need here, and done something about it in a celebratory and sustainable way.

Lockdown has been hard for children and for carers. A bit of help can go a long way. I'm particularly pleased at the plans for continuation.

Sam West

on the *Hearts From The Arts* programme



“Today [name redacted] asked when the sessions would end - she was worried because she said she wasn’t sure how she would cope without it. She said we’ve all become a family, I plan my week around the sessions, I don’t want them to end”

Arts From The Armchair | Participant

“Mum really enjoyed herself today - it was beautiful to see her singing and smiling - she doesn’t talk much now so today was great”

Arts From The Armchair | Carer

Health & Wellbeing



Engagement with the arts is crucial for holistic well-being. Whether through visual arts, music, or performance, it promotes emotional expression, reduces stress, fosters creativity, and enhances cognitive function, contributing significantly to mental and emotional health.

Key Takeaways

- **Pwer** is a long-running partnership with the Flintshire Youth Provision Team, a weekly session working with 19 of the most vulnerable young people in the county
- **NHS referral partnership** includes groups for people living with **Dementia or Alzheimer's** and sessions using dance and music for people living with Parkinson's.
- Our *Arts From The Armchair* programme brings people living with dementia and early on-set memory loss and their carers together to take part in fun workshops, away from a clinical setting to **stimulate cognitive muscles**.



Arts From The Armchair

One of our longest established NHS referral programmes for those with early onset memory loss. Uses drama, music, poetry, creative writing and games for cognitive maintenance and team building as well as supporting carers.



Dance For Parkinsons

A therapeutic dance session designed to improve core strength, posture and aid co-ordination.

“you know with Parkinson's our faces aren't always able to be so expressive, but it's been so lovely to see everyone smiling”



Pwr

A project that originated from approaching a small group of girls who were displaying anti-social behaviour on the streets of Mold. The project grew alongside Flintshire social workers, providing a safe space that has enabled child protection and lowered disruptive behaviours.





Life Long Learning

The arts are a vital tool in education and learning - both for enhancing the curriculum and providing an access-point to other subjects, but also for developing creativity and innovation skills that are vital drivers for the UK economy. Crucially they also help build life-skills - from communications to providing escapism to enable a healthy work/life balance.

Key Takeaways

- We run an **extensive work experience programme** for years 10 & 11. Highlights include workshops with our costume, lighting, marketing and development teams and curated sessions with BAD WOLF (makers of *Doctor Who*) to explore careers in TV & film.
- We created a **major Schools Creative Festival** with Flintshire primary schools marking Flintshire's celebrated Japanese Youth Exchange culminating in performances in Wepre Park.
- We partnered with Reaching Wider touring *Bright Sparks* (see below), an interactive workshop **working in 14 schools in areas of deprivation**, performing to over 650 pupils.



Schools Panto

Many young people's first experience of theatre. We keep our schools prices low to ensure that **over 8,000 young people** can have a Christmas treat each year. A recording of the show is also shared in Flintshire care homes and regional NHS centres & hospitals.



Family Arts Festival

Our annual family festival is heavily subsidised to bring high-quality arts experiences to children aged 0 - 12 across Flintshire. In 2022 the festival was held over two days in Wepre Park, selling **over 5,000 tickets** with the average cost of each ticket **just £2.74**.



Bright Sparks

A STEM driven, performance workshop, works in primary schools to develop and increase the aspirations of young people in socially and economically disadvantaged areas.

Experienced by **over 3,600 young people**.



📷 Immersive family show *The Snow Queen*



Being born and raised in Flintshire, Theatr Clwyd has always played a huge part in my life from an early age.

My very first experience of live theatre was watching the legendary pantomime there, then as a teenager I joined the Clwyd Youth Theatre and now, I love to take my daughter there too. Theatr Clwyd really is the hub of our community. Not only does it give us access to award winning and high class theatre productions but its also a warm, welcoming and safe place for everyone.

I feel so lucky to have this place on my doorstep and it will always have a huge place in my heart.

Sian Gibson

Actor & Co-Creator of *Car Share*





Cultural Impact

Theatr Clwyd is the **biggest** and **most renowned** producing theatre in Wales. The **third biggest** client of Arts Council of Wales, we frequently win and are nominated for major awards – this year was UK Theatre’s Best Family Production for *Famous Five The Musical* (previous awards include Olivier Award for best Comedy, UK Theatre Award for Best New Musical, and 2021 UK Theatre of the Year).

Key Takeaways

Since 2016 we have:

- Had **over 2 million people** attend a Theatr Clwyd Event
 - Hosted **38.6% of audiences from Flintshire** with attendees from every ward in the county from Holywell through to Buckley, from Mold to Saltney.
 - Given **53,208 tickets** away for free to communities
 - Hosted over **335,190 people** at an arts event for £10 or less
 - Produced **67** new plays
 - **50 new plays** by Welsh playwrights
 - Over **800,000 people** have watched a Theatr Clwyd production across the UK
-



The Great Gatsby

An immersive show base in Mold, built in Flintshire, that ran for 3 months in 2023 after its run in the West End.



Milky Peaks

A new musical set in North Wales, made in Flintshire that toured nationally in 2022.



Fleabag

A Welsh-language adaptation, made in Flintshire, that had opened at the National Eisteddfod and then toured Wales.



“I can’t believe how much there is here and it’s so affordable and feels so safe”

Parent about Wepre Park
Family Arts Festival



In The Community

Flintshire covers an area of 640 sq miles - our aim is to engage as much of that area as possible - from central Shotton to Holywell. We work extensively throughout our communities - constantly reflecting and reevaluating our practice of how, and crucially where, we work.

Key Takeaways

- Our new Flintshire Six project **works in communities with limited access to the arts**, or with specific areas of social deprivation - we are currently working in Flint, Connah’s Quay, Shotton, Buckley, Holywell/Greenfields and Mold.
- We run a group for **young people from LGBTQ+ community** in Flintshire. Providing a safe space, building a supportive community and exploring the hidden histories of their community
- We regularly work with all of the **refugee families in Flintshire** as one of only two theatres in Wales to receive ‘sanctuary status’.



Flintshire Six

Our creative engagement teams have embedded themselves in communities, to learn about and find opportunities to share the arts and culture. We’ve run over 90+ sessions in 12 months with activities including flugelhorn lessons for ex-service personnel and first experiences of theatre seeing panto.



Caffi Isa

For 2024 we’ve transferred some of our family shows away from Mold and into the community hub in Mynydd Isa for low-cost family (tickets £5 or less). We’re hoping to share these shows with other communities in Flintshire as part of touring work around the county.



Shoebox Appeal

Every year we run a shoebox appeal in response to specific needs identified by our outreach teams over the preceding year. The boxes range from hygiene essentials to practical art kits for children aged 5 - 7. The boxes are then delivered (in costume) by Theatr Clwyd’s team.





Economic Impact

Theatr Clwyd has a huge positive economic impact for Flintshire and North Wales - as a major employer, tourist attraction and educational partner. On completion of the redeveloped building annual revenue will increase to £10m with a minimum of an additional 60 permanent jobs created locally.

Key Takeaways

- **2016/17:** Annual turnover was **£4.82m** with FCC's funding representing 19% of income.
Today: Turnover is **£7.2m** with FCC's funding representing 17% of income.
- **2016/17:** We employed 60 staff
Today: We currently employ 140 locally based staff
- Our annual economic impact (pre-capital project) was calculated as **£9.6m**
- For every £1 FCC funds Theatr Clwyd we generate another **£5.58 in turnover**
For every £1 FCC funds we generate another **£7.44 within the local economy**



Tourism

With the completion of our major redevelopment we are primed to become a key gateway attraction into Flintshire and North Wales. We expect an increase of £4m per year in economic impact with potential for more alongside the continued artistic success of the venue.



Investment

The quality of our work on stage and in the community has attracted over £39m investment to the FCC owned facility. Theatr Clwyd has now achieved the highest private fundraising of any arts project in Wales, raising over £4.5m (prev. best £2m).



Employer

The organisation is a major employer with over 140 staff performing nearly 70 distinct roles, as well as employing 400+ freelance creatives and performers each year (each bringing economic benefits to Flintshire).

Theatr Clwyd



Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru
Arts Council of Wales



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