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Chief Officer (Governance)

Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



Contact Officer:

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To: Cllr Teresa Carberry (Chair)

Councillors: Bill Crease, Gladys Healey, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Ryan McKeown, Debbie Owen, Andrew Parkhurst, Carolyn Preece, Fran Lister, Jason Shallcross and Arnold Woolley

Co-opted Members:

Lisa Allen, Lynn Bartlett and Wendy White

12 July 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF HYBRID MEETING
EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 18TH JULY, 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 5 - 8)

Purpose: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 10 May, 2024.

4 **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING** (Pages 9 - 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 **HEALTHY SCHOOLS SCHEME AND HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE PRE-SCHOOL SCHEME (HSPSS)** (Pages 23 - 30)

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

Purpose: To update the Committee on progress to date and the plan for roll out of Healthy Schools Scheme and Healthy & Sustainable Pre-School Scheme (HSPSS).

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

The following item is considered to be exempt by virtue of Paragraph(s) 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The report contains commercially sensitive information belonging to a third party and the public interest in not revealing the information outweighs the public interest in revealing the information.

6 THEATR CLWYD BUSINESS PLAN - ANNUAL UPDATE (Pages 31 - 262)

Report of Corporate Manager – Capital Programme & Assets - Cabinet
Member for Education, Welsh Language and Culture

Purpose: To provide Members with an opportunity to view the finalised Theatr Clwyd Business Plan 2023-29 and receive an annual update on delivery against the Plan.

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

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EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **10 MAY 2024**

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held on Friday 10 May 2024.

PRESENT: Councillor Teresa Carberry (Chair)

Councillors: Bill Crease, Paul Cunningham, Gladys Healey, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Ryan McKeown, Andrew Parkhurst, Carolyn Preece and Jason Shallcross

CO-OPTEEs: Lisa Allen and Lynne Bartlett

SUBSTITUTIONS:

Councillor Mel Buckley (for Councillor Gladys Healey),
Councillor Richard Jones (for Councillor David Richardson)

ALSO PRESENT AS OBSERVERS:

Councillors: Mike Allport, Glyn Banks, Marion Bateman, Gillian Brockley, Helen Brown, Tina Claydon, David Coggins Cogan, Rob Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Carol Ellis, Chrissy Gee, Andy Hughes, Dennis Hutchinson, Alasdair Ibbotson, Paul Johnson, Richard Lloyd, Roz Mansell, Allan Marshall, Debbie Owen, Dan Rose, Kevin Rush, Sam Swash, Linda Thew and Roy Wakelam.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Christine Jones and Mrs Wendy White

CONTRIBUTORS:

Councillor Mared Eastwood (Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure); Leader of the Council; Chief Executive; Corporate Manager for People and Organisational Development, Strategic Executive Officer, and Strategic Finance Manager,

IN ATTENDANCE:

Overview & Scrutiny Facilitators and Democratic Services Officer

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

No declarations were received.

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

Councillor Andrew Parkhurst challenged the exclusion of the press and public and quoted from Section 12A of the Local Government Act which stipulated that meetings must be held in public unless public interest in maintaining the exceptions outweigh the public interest in disclosing the information. He felt that if the balance for disclosing or withholding the information was equal then the information must be

released. The default position was that the meeting was held in public, and it was up to those who wished to restrict access to prove their case and provided examples of reasons for this to be undertaken. He said that all of these arguments applied in this instance as the services currently provided affect the lives of every resident of the county about which there had been considerable public debate. The services involved millions of pounds of public money and the options involved comprised a substantial risk with the prospect of the Council having to use its scant reserves to fund additional unbudgeted costs. Some of the assumptions made in the papers needed to be challenged and even when all this had been debated, Members still only had half the story because there was no opportunity for the other party to present its case to Members. If discussions were to stray into exempted areas, it was within the power of the Committee to exclude the press and public from those particular discussions. Unless a compelling argument could be provided which offset those points which he had made he said that Members should reject the proposal to exclude the press and public

The Chief Executive explained that the Monitoring Officer had due regard to all the points made by Councillor Parkhurst and had concluded that this meeting should be held in a private session. The current situation was that the Council was in a commercial negotiation with another party and as such these were sensitive and confidential. It was for those reasons that this meeting was confidential.

The Chair said that openness and transparency were indeed the core principles of good governance as outlined by Councillor Parkhurst. The decision for the report to be considered in a confidential manner should not be taken lightly by Members. Matters of a commercially sensitive nature would be under discussion and needed to remain confidential until the appropriate time.

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).

49. FUTURE OPTIONS: LEISURE, LIBRARIES, AND MUSEUM SERVICES

The Chief Executive introduced a report to provide an overview of the current operating arrangements for Leisure, Libraries and Museum Services and an options appraisal for future delivery for the Education, Youth and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and share opinions on preferred options to Cabinet.

The Strategic Executive Officer outlined key points within the report and explained the original funding agreement between the Council and Aura Leisure and Libraries Ltd commenced on the 1 September 2017, which had been extended to the 31 March 2024 following Cabinet decisions. The extensions to the funding agreement allowed further recovery time following the Pandemic and enabled time to explore new options from April 2024. It was explained that a longer-term agreement between the two parties was deemed preferable, but work had been commissioned

to inform decision making, which included a review of benchmarking, production of a strategic needs assessment and obtaining legal advice.

The Strategic Finance Manager provided information around the Subsidy Control Regime advice that the Council had received. The regime is relatively new and replaced the former State Aid Rules with the new grant deemed a subsidy of particular interest because of the level of funding.

Members asked a number of questions which covered the following areas:-

- The feasibility of the options outlined within the report;
- The availability of option appraisal reports to Members;
- The financial impact on the Council;
- The recovery of the leisure industry due to the impact of Covid;
- The Subsidy Control Regime; and
- Request for additional information prior to providing an opinion on the options detailed within the report.

The Chair referred to the recommendations outlined within the report and suggested that, following the debate, and the comments made by Members that further information was required, that they be amended to reflect this.

Following a discussion, the following recommendations were moved and seconded:-

- That the Committee note the background information and current position in relation to the provision of leisure, libraries, play and museum services;
- That representatives of FMG Consulting Ltd be invited to present their commissioned reports to all Members;
- That the FMG Consulting Ltd commissioned reports, along with the Agreement between the Council and Aura which commenced on 1st September, 2017 be made available in a confidential setting, for all Members to view;
- That following the viewing of the requested documents and presentation by FMG Consulting Ltd, that a special meeting of the Education, Youth & Culture OSC be arranged, with all Members of the Council invited to attend and contribute, in order for the opinion of the Committee to be provided to Cabinet when considering the future options for leisure, libraries and museum services; and
- That further reports be brought back to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as work progressed and as required.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Committee note the background information and current position in relation to the provision of leisure, libraries, play and museum services;
- (b) That representatives of FMG Consulting Ltd be invited to present their commissioned reports to all Members;
- (c) That the FMG Consulting Ltd commissioned reports, along with the Agreement between the Council and Aura which commenced on 1st September, 2017 be made available in a confidential setting, for all Members to view;
- (d) That following the viewing of the requested documents and presentation by FMG Consulting Ltd, that a special meeting of the Education, Youth & Culture OSC be arranged, with all Members of the Council invited to attend and contribute, in order for the opinion of the Committee to be provided to Cabinet when considering the future options for leisure, libraries and museum services; and
- (e) That further reports be brought back to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as work progressed and as required.

50. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS OR PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE

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

(The meeting started at 10.00 am and ended at 12.06 pm)

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Chair



EDUCATION YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 18 th July, 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>Monday 9th September 2024 2.00pm</p> <p>Page 13</p>	<p>School Reserves Year Ending 31 March 2023 and Demographics</p> <p>Youth Justice Service Inspection</p> <p>Young Flintshire Pilot & Strategy</p> <p>Annual Performance Report 2023/24 to incorporate the Council Plan End of Year Performance Report 2023/24</p>	<p>To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by Flintshire schools at the end of the financial year and information on changes in demographics.</p> <p>To present the report following the recent Youth Justice Service Inspection</p> <p>To share the outcomes from the Young Flintshire Pilot that took place May – July 2024 and explain the strategy going forward following an academic year model.</p> <p>To consider the Annual Performance Report 2023-24, noting the Council Plan (2023-28) end of year performance for 2023-24.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p> <p>Consultation / Assurance Monitoring</p> <p>Information Sharing</p> <p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Strategic Finance Manager (Schools)</p> <p>Senior Manager Youth Justice and Flintshire Sorted</p> <p>Healthy Schools and Pre Schools Officer</p> <p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth)</p>
<p>Thursday 17th October 2024 2.00pm</p>				

<p>Thursday 28th November 2024</p> <p>2.00pm</p>				
<p>Thursday 9th January 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>				
<p>Monday 17th February 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>				
<p>Thursday 27th March 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>				
<p>Thursday 22nd May 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>				
<p>Thursday 19th June 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>				

<p>Joint EY&C & S&HC OSC Thursday 26th June 2025</p> <p>2.00pm</p>				
<p>Friday 18th July 2025</p> <p>10.00am</p>				

INFORMATION REPORTS/BRIEFING PAPERS TO BE CIRCULATED TO THE COMMITTEE

Item	Purpose of information report	Month
<p>Page 15 Health & Safety in Schools</p>	<p>Information report on accidents during the academic year and the actions taken to support schools in achieving healthy and safe environment.</p>	<p>December</p>
<p>Parking Outside Schools</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Policies for dealing with bullying in schools</p>	<p>To provide information on School Policies for dealing with instances of bullying.</p>	<p>-</p>

Items to be scheduled

- Recycling School Uniforms – **Referred to the Committee from the Environment & Economy OSC.**
- Consultation on Member Role Descriptions - To consult Members on the draft role descriptions as provided in the revised draft Model Constitution – **moved from October, 2023 to be allocated to a new meeting date**

- Leeswood Transition Club – To receive a fuller report on the success of the scheme – **suggested at October meeting**
- Theatr Clwyd and School Music Service – Annual report on the involvement of young people in the activities at Theatr Clwyd, together with an update on the School Music Service – **suggested at February 2024 meeting**

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
September	Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)	To receive an update on progress with the development of the regional school effectiveness and improvement service, to include a presentation from the Chief Officer of GwE.	Chief Officer (Education & Youth) & GwE Senior Officers
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;

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
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
21.03.2024	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	The Chair requested that a report from NEWydd in relation to School Meals be added to the FWP. Following a request from Cllr Dave Mackie that feedback from schools/pupils be included in the report, the Chief Officer suggested that Steve Jones and Claire Sinnott work jointly on a report to capture pupil engagement with NEWydd around School Meals.	Steve Jones / Claire Sinnott	Added to list of items for consideration at meeting between the Chair and Chief Officer during the recess.	August 2024
21.03.2024	5. Emergency Planning Arrangements	It was agreed that the reviewed Members Handbook and the link to E-Learning be circulated to all Members via the Democratic Services Manager when finalised and available.	Helen Kilgannon	A copy of the refreshed handbook and link to E-learning circulated to all Members on 09.07.2024.	Completed
21.03.2024	5. Emergency Planning Arrangements	Following a request from Cllr Ryan McKeown, it was agreed that the minutes of the EMRT meeting, which discussed the snow alert be circulated to Members of the Committee.	Helen Kilgannon		
21.03.2024	6. Tackling the Impact of Inequality on Educational Outcomes	Following a suggestion from the Leader of the Council, it was agreed that Members of the Committee be invited to the Food and Fun Programme 2024 sessions to speak to	Vicky Barlow	Information on different sessions circulated to Members of the Committee.	Completed

		learners and families to better understand the positive impact.			
23.05.2024	6. Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	In response to a request from Cllr Dave Mackie that a report on redundancy payments and headteacher resignation and also a report on the budget setting process to allow greater flexibility to schools, the Chief Officer asked Cllr Mackie to send her an e-mail with the specific areas of information requested.	Cllr Dave Mackie / Claire Homard	Added to list of items for consideration at meeting between the Chair and Chief Officer during the recess.	August 2024
23.05.2024	6. Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	Cllr Mackie also asked that a report on the mechanisms for supporting schools through the budget challenges and support from Human Resources that all schools receive from various departments of the Council be included on the Committee's FWP.	Claire Homard / Ceri Shotton	Added to list of items for consideration at meeting between the Chair and Chief Officer during the recess.	August 2024
23.05.2024	6. Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	In response to a request from Cllr Andrew Parkhurst for a report on the impact to the Council if VAT was applied to private school fees, Jeanette Rock advised that a review of capacity at specialist provision across the County was currently being carried out. She also commented on the financial pressure children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) was having on schools and suggested that a report covering these issues be presented to the Committee in the Autumn term.	Jeanette Rock / Ceri Shotton	Added to list of items for consideration at meeting between the Chair and Chief Officer during the recess.	August 2024

ACTION TRACKING

APPENDIX 2

23.05.2024	6. Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	Cllr Parkhurst also asked if a report on the financial controls within the Education Portfolio could be provided at a future meeting.	Claire Homard	Added to list of items for consideration at meeting between the Chair and Chief Officer during the recess.	August 2024
23.05.2024	9. School Attendance and Exclusion	The Chair suggested that a briefing session on the Trauma Informed School be arranged for Members at a future date.	Jeanette Rock / Ceri Shotton	Added to list of items for consideration at meeting between the Chair and Chief Officer during the recess.	August 2024
23.05.2024	9. School Attendance and Exclusion	The Chair also asked that information on the Belonging Initiative be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.	Jeanette Rock / Ceri Shotton	Timescale to be considered at the meeting between the Chair and Chief Officer during the recess.	August 2024
23.05.2024	10. Saltney & Broughton School Network Review	The Leader of the Council suggested that the Committee take part in a site visit of the Penyffordd School, at a convenient time in the future.	Jennie Williams / Ceri Shotton		
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		
23.05.2024	11. Welsh Government's (WG) Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Capital Investment Programme and	Following a question from Cllr Andrew Parkhurst around cost pressures and revenue impactions where projects go ahead, Jennie Williams agreed to speak to Cllr Parkhurst to go through this matter with him outside of the meeting.	Jennie Williams		

	Mutual Investment Model (MIM)				
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EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 18th July 2024
Report Subject	Healthy Schools Scheme and Healthy & Sustainable Pre-School Scheme (HSPSS)
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language and Culture
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Healthy and Sustainable Pre-School Scheme (HSPSS) and Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Scheme (WNHSS) are recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as playing a key role in promoting and protecting the physical, emotional and social health and well-being of children and young people in Wales. In Flintshire, all 77 schools and 50 pre-school settings are supported to engage in WNHSS and HSPSS.

This report has been produced in response to members seeking an update on the national improvements made to the scheme. The report will also highlight key findings from the 2023 School Health Research Network Survey (SHRN) undertaken in Flintshire secondary schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members of the Committee are briefed in regard to the planned improvements to the Healthy Schools programme in 23/24 and 24/25.
2.	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	Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS)
1.01	<p>The Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS) was launched by Welsh Government in 1999 with all 22 authorities in Wales integrating the national scheme as a true partnership between education and health.</p> <p>The Flintshire Healthy Schools Team works to support schools in ensuring that health education and promotion becomes an integrated part of the school curriculum, the ethos of the school and community. The team works in partnership with local and national organisations to support a coordinated and multi-faceted approach to health education in schools.</p> <p>The Healthy Schools National Quality Award (NQA) was introduced in 2009 with national criteria (indicators) over seven health themes which schools would be supported to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• food and fitness,• mental and emotional health and wellbeing,• personal development and relationships,• substance use and misuse,• environment,• safety and• hygiene. <p>Schools are supported to deliver activities and programmes that reflect national priorities set within a framework of: Leadership and Communication, Curriculum, Ethos and Environment / and Family and Community Involvement.</p>
1.02	<p>In the past, schools made progress through the scheme by achieving 'Phases'. In Phases 1-3 a school would be required to plan and implement actions relating to different health themes that are identified on a school / local level. In Phases 4 - 6 a school was supported in order to evidence how they meet national criteria across the seven health themes. In Phase 6, a school did choose to work towards achieving the National Quality Award (NQA) for schools that can demonstrate the highest standards in health and wellbeing as part of a whole school approach.</p> <p>In Flintshire by 2020 16 schools had achieved the National Quality Award. 2 schools achieved local phase 6, 33 had achieved Phase 5 and were working towards NQA. 17 schools had achieved Phase 4, 8 schools had achieved Phase 3, and 2 schools had achieved Phase 2. Schools have been actively engaged in the scheme for over 20 years in the county.</p> <p>Since the pandemic, the accreditation and assessment aspect of the scheme has been paused unless a school has requested to undergo this process. The NQA officially came to an end in March 2024 and no further assessments will be carried out from March 2024.</p>

1.03	<p>Review and Reform</p> <p>PHW began the review of the WNHSS in 2019, however with a delay due to the pandemic, this was recommenced and by Autumn 2022, PHW proposed a reform to the architecture of the programme; to move away from 22 schemes towards a single all-Wales framework.</p> <p>PHW also proposed that local delivery and ownership would continue supported by a single benchmark and framework of what is considered 'effective practice', as part of a continuous improvement model.</p> <p>This change reflects a focus on continuous improvement, aligning with whole school approach principles and the integration of support to embed a Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Well-being.</p> <p>This process has been overseen by the Health Promoting Schools Programme Board and is currently awaiting Ministerial approval for a proposed set of Minimum Standards that describe the core components of a health and well-being promoting school.</p> <p>These Minimum Standards have been developed based on research evidence, international best practices, and input from a range of stakeholders across health, education, and the health promoting schools workforce. The standards will be shared with schools ahead of the national launch in April 2025.</p>
1.04	<p>Welsh Network of Health and Well-being Promoting Schools</p> <p>Following consultation, as part of the reforms, the new name for the scheme is the 'Welsh Network of Health and Well-being Promoting Schools' (WNHWPS).</p> <p>To reflect the name change, a new logo and branding has been developed by PHW. Healthy Schools colleagues across Wales were consulted as part of this process during December 2023 - January 2024.</p>
1.05	<p>The Flintshire Healthy Schools team has remained steadfastly focused on providing crucial support and resources to schools in the areas of learner and staff health and wellbeing, particularly through this time of transition.</p> <p>Aligned to the national strategic priorities determined by PHW, the following priorities have been agreed regionally across the six local authority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Framework WSAEMWB • New Curriculum for Wales (Development and implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Area of Learning and Experience) (CFW) • Supporting Schools to prepare for and implement the Relationships and Sexuality Education Code (RSE) • Taking a Whole System Approach to Eating Well & Being Active in Schools • Continue to promote and support the best use of School Health Research Network (SHRN) data within primary and secondary schools, to inform priorities.

	<p>Alongside the national strategic priorities, Flintshire Local Priorities for 2023-24 were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing (WSAEMWB) 2. Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) 3. Food and Nutrition.
1.06	<p>Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Framework (WSAEMWB)</p> <p>The Flintshire Healthy Schools team has been supporting schools to complete the WSAEMWB self-assessment tool. This has provided a current baseline of wellbeing provision for both learners and staff via a whole school consultation and review process, allowing schools to develop implementation plans accordingly.</p> <p>In Flintshire, 97.4% of schools are engaged in this process - notably higher than the Wales average of 82.6%. 2 schools have not yet engaged due to a changes in leadership.</p> <p>Furthermore, 94% of Flintshire schools have completed the self-assessment tool, compared to 71.9% across Wales. 4 schools have not yet completed the self-assessment audit tool. 1 school is on has undergone a change in leadership and is currently focusing on other pressing improvement priorities. 2 schools have requested an extension. 1 further school has not yet completed the tool, due to appointing a new headteacher.</p> <p>Schools are now in the process of finalising their implementation plans, with the view that they will be in place for the new academic year 2024 -2025.</p>
1.07	<p>Following a review of the key themes emerging from the completion of the WSAEMWB self-assessment tools, staff wellbeing was identified in secondary schools as a priority. In January 2024, funded by the Welsh Government Wellbeing grant, a pilot of 'Well-being with Cari' was launched with the 9 secondary schools. This was voluntary for school staff to participate in and required the completion of short online wellbeing surveys, assessing their levels of commitment, resilience, engagement, and well-being. Staff were subsequently signposted to appropriate support in order to improve their wellbeing scores.</p> <p>26 school staff completed the Advocate training in February 2024, and 10 staff completed additional First Responder Training in March 2024 to upskill and increase confidence in supporting staff at an individual level regarding their wellbeing.</p> <p>The Healthy Schools team promoted the completion of online surveys in schools and using the consultation data, the team generated customised school reports identifying average wellbeing scores and areas of strength and improvement for staff well-being for each school. The pilot will finish at the end of the summer term and will be evaluated accordingly. How school staff can continue to benefit from the training they have received will be explored going forward.</p>

1.08	<p>Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)</p> <p>The Flintshire Healthy Schools team have continued to support schools to meet the requirements of the Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Code and Curriculum for Wales.</p> <p>In November 2023, an in-person RSE Cluster event brought together secondary RSE leads and their primary school counterparts. During the event, the secondary leads chaired cluster meetings in physical breakout rooms, facilitating discussions on progression and areas for improving the delivery of the RSE curriculum. The well-attended event received positive feedback.</p> <p>The RSE clusters have continued to convene since the initial event, with the Healthy Schools team providing support as required. Each RSE cluster was issued £3,000 to fund resources and training. Furthermore, Brooke RSE training was organized and delivered in March 2024 to aid secondary schools in implementing the RSE curriculum funded by the health board.</p> <p>Healthy Schools has overseen the coordination of the Welsh Government Period Dignity grant since it was first issued in 17/18. In the 23/24 fiscal year, the project continued through an online ordering and delivery system for home packs, provided in partnership with an external provider. Concurrently, the team implemented a range of community-based initiatives to distribute products, including through food banks, community hubs, youth services, and adult learning centres. Schools were provided funding to purchase products for distribution.</p>
1.09	<p>Food and Nutrition</p> <p>Taking a Whole System Approach to Eating Well & Being Active in Schools is a local and regional priority for the Healthy Schools team. Following a review of existing food provision in line with Welsh Government regulations, work has continued with secondary schools. In December 2023, a third learner voice event was held in collaboration with colleagues from Newydd to review the food and drink provision and to gather feedback on the new menu which launched in September 2023. 35 learners from 10 secondary schools were in attendance.</p> <p>During the workshop, water provision emerged as a common theme across a number of schools. To address this, a survey was conducted to identify schools that could benefit from additional water coolers. Subsequently 17 mains-operated water coolers at 8 secondary schools were installed and a water provision policy template for primary and secondary schools was developed, to reflect the importance of adequate water provision in schools.</p>
1.10	<p>Healthy & Sustainable Pre-school Scheme (HSPSS)</p> <p>The HSPSS has experienced a growth in the number of participating settings, now totalling 53. To earn accreditation, each setting must demonstrate that its policies, planning, and overall ethos promote health and well-being across 7 different themes. Upon meeting the required criteria for each theme, the setting undergoes a local assessment and is then accredited by PHW. The</p>

	HSPSS assessment process has continued uninterrupted, even as the WNHSS undergoes review and reform.
1.11	<p>Food and Fun</p> <p>The Healthy Schools team have coordinated the Food & Fun programme in Flintshire since it began in 2018 (previously known as the School Holiday Enrichment Programme SHEP). This has involved the initial recruitment of schools, facilitation of stakeholder group meetings, management of funding, and provision of direct support to schools before, during, and after the programme delivery.</p> <p>Over 300 primary and secondary age children took part between July 24 and August 10 2023 at the following schools: Ysgol Bryn Garth, Ysgol Bryn Gwalia, Ysgol Gronant, Ysgol Glan Aber, Queensferry Primary School, Ysgol Maesglas, Connah's Quay High School, Ysgol Treffynnon, St David's High school, Flint High School, Argoed High school, Ysgol Pen Coch, and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.</p> <p>Over the 12 days of the programme, the children participated in a broad range of engaging activities focused on health, happiness, and wellbeing. Children attending enjoyed a healthy breakfast, snack and a hot lunch provided each day by NEWydd Catering.</p> <p>Aura Leisure delivered a wide variety of sporting activities and interactive games alongside a broad offer of enrichment activities coordinated by each school. In the feedback received from the children, dodgeball, circus skills and parachute games all proved popular this year.</p> <p>Children attending also learnt about nutrition and healthy diets, gained new cookery skills and enjoyed food tasting sessions. Harlech Foodservice in partnership with Newydd Catering supplied a food bag for each child during the third week of the programme with a range of ingredients to encourage families to get cooking over the holidays.</p> <p>Planning is underway for the 2024 programme which will commence on 22nd July 2024 at 10 schools: Flint High School, Ysgol Bryn Garth, Queensferry CP School, Golftyn CP School, Argoed High School, Ysgol Treffynnon, St David's High School, Ysgol Pen Coch, Ysgol Bryn Gwalia and Ysgol Maes Hyfryd.</p>
1.12	<p>School Health Research Network (SHRN)</p> <p>In the autumn term of 2023, the Healthy Schools team supported all Flintshire secondary schools in completing the bi-annual SHRN survey. The data from this survey became available in the spring term of 2024, at which point the team provided each school with a detailed summary and support as required.</p> <p>Subsequently, the team has worked closely with schools to inform the county SHRN action plan based on the survey's findings and for schools to prioritise areas for development going forward.</p>

	The SHRN survey has also been available to primary schools once and will be available again in the autumn term 2024. All primary schools are encouraged to undertake the survey.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
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2.01	<p>Funding for WNHWPS and HSPSS is allocated as grants via the Public Health Wales Health Improvement Division. The majority of the funding in Flintshire is utilised on staff costs to employ 2 x whole time healthy schools and pre-schools officers and 1 x part time officer (0.2). The coordination and management of both schemes and associated projects is undertaken by the Learning Advisor for health, wellbeing and safeguarding (0.2).</p> <p>Current grant funding is confirmed until 31st March 2025.</p>
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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3.01	None
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4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
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4.01	None
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5.00	APPENDICES
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5.01	None
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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
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6.01	<p>Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS) https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/welsh-network-of-healthy-school-schemes/</p> <p>Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing framework (WSAEMWB) https://gov.wales/framework-embedding-whole-school-approach-emotional-and-mental-wellbeing.</p> <p>Food and Fun https://www.wlga.wales/food-and-fun-school-holiday-enrichment-programme</p> <p>School Health Research Network (SHRN) https://www.shrn.org.uk/</p>
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7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Claire Sinnott, Learning Advisor – Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 704054</p> <p>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>Whole School Approach to Emotional and Mental Wellbeing (WSAEMWB) Framework Guidance: Welsh Government Framework on embedding a whole-school approach to emotional and mental wellbeing Guidance to support the delivery and evaluation of the framework.</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> <p>Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes (WNHSS): The Welsh Network of Healthy School Schemes is part of the Schools for Health in Europe (SHE) Network and reflects the SHE approach. It also addresses the Welsh Assembly Government’s seven core aims and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>Healthy & Sustainable Pre-school Scheme (HSPSS): Launched nationally in 2011, the Healthy and Sustainable Pre-School Scheme was developed as an extension of the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Scheme (WNHSS) and the criteria have clear parallels with the WNHSS National Quality Award.</p>

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