

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **EXECUTIVE**

DATE: **27 MARCH 2012**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **ESTYN INSPECTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY
EDUCATION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To seek approval of the action plan following the 2011 Estyn Inspection of Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People (LAESCYP).

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Flintshire County Council was subject to a full LAESCYP inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales (Estyn) in October 2011.

2.02 As part of the preparation for inspection, the Council produced an updated Self evaluation report (SER), which was compiled with the support of the Council corporately and partners involved in the provision of support to children, young people and schools. The SER and extensive background documentation were provided to the inspection team in advance of the inspection process.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 The outcome of the inspection was reported to Executive on 21st February 2012 and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny on 23rd February 2012. Several sections of the report match the local authority's own views of it's progress and performance including support for additional learning needs, promoting social inclusion and well-being, access and school places, partnership working and resource management.

3.02 The local authority has registered concerns about Estyn's judgement of 'adequate' in relation to 'standards'. The issues are set out at Appendix 1 and key performance outcomes as set out at Appendix 2. Key outcomes at Appendix 2 contradict statements within the Estyn report 'standards' section. The standards judgement is a key component in assessing "How Good are Outcomes" and other key questions across the inspection framework. Estyn grade descriptions are: -

- Good – many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement.
- Adequate – strength outweigh areas for improvement.

3.03 All education providers produce action plans to address Estyn inspection recommendations following inspection. The draft Action Plan has been produced by a project team working closely with service partners. It has also been considered by the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Action Plan is due for submission to Estyn by 4th April 2012.

3.04 The Estyn Inspection recommendations are:

- Improve standards and performance to reduce the percentage of schools that are in the bottom 25% when compared to similar schools across Wales and reduce the gap in performance between boys and girls;
- Improve the standard and quality of provision in primary schools by:
 - addressing a trend of declining attendance;
 - reducing fixed term exclusions; and
 - reducing school balances and deficits in line with national guidelines
- Improve how senior officers and all elected Members work together to:-
 - improve standards for all learners;
 - improve self-evaluation and reporting to Members; and
 - reorganise secondary schools, reduce surplus places and make better use of resources
- Reduce the number of days' education that learners in Flintshire miss due to fixed term exclusions of six days or more in all of its secondary schools;
- Improve the monitoring arrangements for the Children and Young People's Partnership to effectively track the progress of children and young people;
- Prioritise areas for improvement identified in its self evaluation of education services.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Executive is asked to formally approve the post-inspection Action Plan.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 Financial options and implications from specific projects will need to be considered as part of developing revenue and capital programmes for future years.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 There are no anti poverty implications arising directly from this report.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The inspection report and action plan should comply with the Council's equalities requirements. The inspection report notes good practice in Social Inclusion and Additional Learning Needs.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 There are no personal implications arising directly from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 The draft Action Plan has been consulted upon with school and service partner representatives.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Not applicable.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix 1 – LAESCYP Inspection Action Plan
Appendix 2 – Standards in Flintshire

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

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