

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

DATE: **THURSDAY, 9TH JULY 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (EDUCATION AND YOUTH)**

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To update members on the Education and Youth Improvement and Modernisation Strategy and how it supports the Council Improvement Plan 2015-16.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 The Education and Youth Improvement and Modernisation Strategy 2015-16 builds on the work done in the Education Improvement and Modernisation Strategy 2014-15. The new title reflects the new Education and Youth Portfolio, whereas the previous document covered just those areas around Education that were part of the Lifelong Learning Directorate.

2.02 Progress on the 2014-15 Strategy was reported to Scrutiny through the Quarterly Reporting process.

2.03 The 2015-16 Strategy covers all the priorities within the Council Plan for “Modernised and High Performing Education” and one of the priorities from the Council Plan for “Apprenticeships and Training”, where staff from the Education and Youth Portfolio play a leading role.

2.04 In the Education and Youth Portfolio we aim to work with partners in neighbouring Local Authorities, Regional Services (in particular the Regional Service for School Improvement (GwE)), and Learning Settings to improve learning provision to get better learner outcomes. This is a priority this year because we need to:

- Continue to achieve better learning opportunities, outcomes and wellbeing for all children and young people;
- Support the national Welsh Government priorities to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes and reduce the impact of poverty on educational attainment;
- Respond to national reforms to curriculum and assessment models
- Work effectively with partners across the region to successfully

- implement the National Model for Regional Working;
- Make more efficient use of education resources through School Modernisation;
- Help young people take the step from education to employment
- Reduce barriers to engagement, ensure equality of access and participation opportunities for all children and young people.

2.05 The Strategy contains a plan for each of the following priorities from the Council Plans identified in 2.03 above, and aims to raise standards by:

- Working effectively with the Regional School Improvement Service (GwE) to:
 - share best teaching practice and resources across schools and the region;
 - identify and target support for schools most in need;
 - develop the capacity of schools to respond to national initiatives and curriculum reforms;
 - Improve skills in literacy and numeracy;
- Reducing the impact of poverty and disadvantage, including through the Families First Programme (2015-17) and Flintshire’s Integrated Youth Services Strategy (2014-18), “Delivering Together”;
- Improve outcomes for Looked After Children and young people exiting the Youth Justice System;
- Developing and implementing a plan for the next phase of Schools Modernisation, including continuing to implement the 21st Century school (Band A) programme;
- Implement the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework for learners in danger of disengaging through:
 - Targeting vocational and employability skills;
 - Enhancing personal support, including coaching, mentoring and help with transition
 - Increasing the use of release on temporary licence (ROTL) for young people in the youth justice service; to better engage with post-custody education, training and employment prior to release.

2.06 For each of the priorities identified in 2.05 above, the Strategy identifies the underlying actions that will be taken by the authority and its partners in these areas to achieve the overall aim of improving learner outcomes and wellbeing.

2.07 The Education and Youth Improvement and Modernisation Strategy has been produced by the group of Principal Officers and has been shared with School Leaders at the Primary and Secondary Headteacher Federations. Outcomes and targets will be monitored regularly by the Principal Officers Group and will be reported to members through the Quarterly Reporting process.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 Members will be aware of the development of regional working in recent years and the continued growth of this that is anticipated as the recommendations within the National Model for School Improvement Services are implemented. The effect of this is that the team of officers here within the authority has been, and continues to be, much reduced. Hence, the authority will often focus on influencing development rather than creating and driving through change with our own teams. More and more we will see other agencies being responsible to us for delivering what is in our plans.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That members note the receipt of this report and the Education and Youth Improvement and Modernisation Strategy 2015-16, and agree if they would want additional information about any of the work areas covered within the Strategy in addition to what will be reported through the Quarterly Reporting system.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are no direct financial implications in the receipt of this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 Members will note the need and the priority to reduce the educational impact of poverty and disadvantage and the aim to develop the capacity of schools to respond to national initiative such as this, in order to achieve better learning outcomes and wellbeing for all children and young people regardless of their socioeconomic background.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 None within the receipt of this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 Targets are included for two sets of learners who perform less well than is average for the full cohort. These are boys and learners entitled to Free School Meals.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 There are no direct Personnel Implications arising from the receipt of this report. However, individual projects will have to be assessed for delivery capacity.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 A process of consultation with schools and other organisations named within the document is undertaken before the draft status is removed from the document.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 The process identified in 10.01 has been undertaken.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Education and Youth Improvement and Modernisation Strategy 2015-16

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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