EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 15th December, 2016
Report Subject	Quarter 2 Improvement Plan 2016/17 Monitoring Report
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Executive Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Improvement Plan for 2016/17 was adopted by the Council on 14th June 2016.

This report presents the monitoring of progress for the second quarter of the Improvement Plan 2016/17 priority 'Skills and Learning' relevant to the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Flintshire is a high performing Council as evidenced in previous Improvement Plan monitoring reports as well as in the Council's Annual Performance reports. This second quarter monitoring report for the 2016/17 Improvement Plan is also a positive report with 98% of activities being assessed as making good progress and 54% likely to achieve the desired outcome. In addition, 68% of the performance indicators met or exceeded target for the quarter. Risks are also being successfully managed with the majority being assessed as moderate (71%) or minor/insignificant (12%).

This report is an exception based report and therefore detail focuses on the areas of under-performance.

Recommendations	
1	That the Committee consider the Quarter 2 Improvement Plan monitoring report for the 'Skills and Learning' priority to monitor under performance and request further information as appropriate.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN MONITORING REPORT
1.01	The Improvement Plan monitoring reports give an explanation of the progress being made toward the delivery of the impacts set out in the 2016/17 Improvement Plan. The narrative is supported by performance indicators and / or milestones which evidence achievement. In addition, there is an assessment of the strategic risks and the level to which they are being controlled.
1.02	**Monitoring our Activities** Each of the sub-priorities have high level activities which are monitored over time. 'Progress' monitors progress against scheduled activity and has been categorised as follows: - • RED: Limited Progress – delay in scheduled activity; not on track • AMBER: Satisfactory Progress – some delay in scheduled activity, but broadly on track • GREEN: Good Progress – activities completed on schedule, on track A RAG (Red/Amber/Green) status is also given as an assessment of our level of confidence at this point in time in achieving the 'outcome(s)' for each sub-priority. Each outcome has been categorised as: - • RED: Low – lower level of confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s) • AMBER: Medium – uncertain level of confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s) • GREEN: High – full confidence in the achievement of the outcome(s).
1.03	In summary our overall progress against the high level activities is: - ACTIVITES PROGRESS • We are making good (green) progress in 56 (98%) activities. • We are making satisfactory (amber) progress in 1 (2%) activity. ACTIVITIES OUTCOME • We have a high (green) level of confidence in the achievement of 31 (54%) activity outcomes. • We have a medium (amber) level of confidence in the achievement of 26 activity outcomes (46%). • None of our activities have a low (red) level of confidence in achievement of outcomes.
1.04	**Monitoring our Performance** Analysis of performance against the Improvement Plan performance indicators is undertaken using the RAG status. This is defined as follows: - • RED equates to a position of under-performance against target • AMBER equates to a mid-position where improvement may have been

	made but performance has missed the target • GREEN equates to a position of positive performance against target.
1.05	Analysis of current levels of quarterly performance shows the following: - • 30 (68%) had achieved a green RAG status • 3 (7%) have an amber RAG status • 11 (25%) have a red RAG status
1.06	There were no quarterly performance indicators (PI's) which showed a red RAG status for current performance, relevant to the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
1.07	**Monitoring our Risks** Analysis of the current risk levels of strategic risks identified in the Improvement Plan are as follows: - • 3 (6%) are insignificant (green) • 6 (12%) are minor (yellow) • 36 (70%) are moderate (amber) • 6 (12%) are major (red) • There are no severe (black) risks.
1.08	The two major (red) risks areas relevant to the Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:- **Priority: Skills and Learning** *Risk: Numbers of school places not matching the changing demographics.* Reducing unfilled school places via school organisation change is an on-going process which has a long timeline. (School change projects can take 3 - 5 years from inception to delivery), before reductions of unfilled places can be realised. This continues to be an on-going process linked to the school modernisation programme. To supplement this the Council will continue to work closely with schools to consider innovative ways for reduction in capacity on a school by school basis (i.e. alternative use of school facilities by other groups) with the objective of meeting national targets of around 10% unfilled in all school sectors. The recent school organisation change determinations will result in a reduction in unfilled places across both primary and secondary schools. This will be required post statistical school returns in September. As a snapshot, the Holywell Learning Campus project has reduced unfilled places in this area by circa 450 places. **Priority: Skills and Learning** *Risk: Limited funding to address the backlog of known repair and maintenance works in Education & Youth assets.*

Continuation of the School Modernisation programme is the only conceivable way of addressing the repair and maintenance backlog. Additionally the programme continuation will also:

(i) Support a reduction of unfilled places
(ii) Provide a more efficient school estate and concentrate resources on teaching by removal of unwanted fixed costs in infrastructure and leadership
(iii) Ensure that the condition and suitability of the school estate is improved. Additionally, capital business cases for capital improvement and repairs and maintenance projects in schools will be submitted via the Council's business case process for consideration.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no specific resource implications for this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Improvement Priorities are monitored by the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees according to the priority area of interest.
3.02	Chief Officers have contributed towards reporting of relevant information.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Progress against the risks identified in the Improvement Plan is included in the report at Appendix 1. Summary information for the risks assessed as major (red) is covered in paragraphs 1.06 and 1.08 above.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Quarter 2 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report – Skills and Learning

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None. **Contact Officer:** Ceri Shotton **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.
7.02	**School Modernisation:** the process by which the Local Authority ensures there are a sufficient number of high quality school places, of the right type in the right locations.
7.03	**Risks:** These are assessed using the improved approach to risk management endorsed by Audit Committee in June 2015. The new approach, includes the use of a new and more sophisticated risk assessment matrix which provides greater opportunities to show changes over time.
7.04	The new approach to risk assessment was created in response to recommendations in the Corporate Assessment report from the Wales Audit Office and Internal Audit.

7.05	**CAMMS – An explanation of the report headings**
	Actions: Action – Each sub-priority have high level activities attached to them to help achieve the outcomes of the sub-priority. Lead Officer – The person responsible for updating the data on the action. Status – This will either be 'In progress' if the action has a start and finish date or 'Ongoing' if it is an action that is longer term than the reporting year. Start date – When the action started (usually the start of the financial year). End date – When the action is expected to be completed. % complete - The % that the action is complete at the time of the report. This only applies to actions that are 'in progress'. An action that is 'ongoing' will not produce a % complete due to the longer-term nature of the action. Progress RAG – Shows if the action at this point in time is making limited progress (Red), satisfactory progress (Amber) or good progress (Green). Outcome RAG – Shows the level of confidence in achieving the outcomes for

each action.

Measures (Key Performance Indicators - KPIs):
<u>Pre. Year Period Actual</u> – The period actual at the same point in the previous year. If the KPI is a new KPI for the year then this will show as 'no data'.
<u>Period Actual</u> – The data for this quarter.
<u>Period Target</u> – The target for this quarter as set at the beginning of the year.
<u>Perf. RAG</u> – This measures performance for the period against the target. It is automatically generated according to the data. Red = a position of under performance against target, Amber = a mid-position where improvement may have been made but performance has missed the target and Green = a position of positive performance against the target.
<u>Perf. Indicator Trend</u> – Trend arrows give an impression of the direction the performance is heading compared to the period of the previous year. It is important to note that a 'downward arrow' always indicates poorer performance regardless of whether a KPI figure means that less is better (e.g. the amount of days to deliver a grant or undertake a review) or if a KPI figure means that more is better (e.g. number of new jobs in Flintshire).
Similarly an 'upward arrow' always indicates improved performance.
<u>YTD Actual</u> – The data for the year so far including previous quarters.
<u>YTD Target</u> – The target for the year so far including the targets of previous quarters.
<u>Outcome RAG</u> – The level of confidence of meeting the target by the end of the year. Low – lower level of confidence in the achievement of the target (Red), medium – uncertain level of confidence in the achievement of the target (Amber) and high-full confidence in the achievement of the target (Green).

Risks:
<u>Risk Title</u> – Gives a description of the risk.
<u>Lead Officer</u> – The person responsible for managing the risk.
<u>Supporting Officer</u> – The person responsible for updating the risk.
<u>Initial Risk Rating</u> – The level of the risk at the start of the financial year (quarter 1). The risks are identified as follows; insignificant (green), minor (yellow), moderate (amber), major (red) and severe (black).
<u>Current Risk Rating</u> – The level of the risk at this quarter.
<u>Trend Arrow</u> – The shows if the risk has increased, decreased or remained the same between the initial risk rating and the current risk rating.
<u>Risk Status</u> – This will either show as 'open' or closed'. If a risk is open then it is still a relevant risk, if the risk is closed then it is no longer a relevant risk; a new risk may be generated where a plan or strategy moves into a new phase.