

**JOINT MEETING OF
LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND
SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
29 MARCH, 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Social and Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Thursday, 29 March, 2012.

PRESENT:

Councillors: D. Barratt, R.C. Bithell, D.L. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Dolphin, H.T. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, C. Legg, D.I. Mackie, R.P. Macfarlane, H.J. McGuill, E.W. Owen, C.A. Thomas and W.O. Thomas

CO-OPTED MEMBER: Mrs. R. Stark

APOLOGIES: Councillors M. Bateman, A. Davies-Cooke, E.F. Evans, F. Gillmore, D.L. Mackie and D. McFarlane. Ms. C. Burgess, Mr. D. Hytch and Mrs. T. Millington

CONTRIBUTORS: Executive Member for Education, Executive Member for Social Services, Director of Lifelong Learning, Director of Community Services, Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator, Service Manager Resources, and Principal Learning Advisor

IN ATTENDANCE: Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer

95. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING

At the start of the meeting the Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator sought nominations for a Chairman.

RESOLVED

That Councillor R.P. Macfarlane be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.

96. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (including Whipping Declarations)

The Chairman advised Members of the need to declare a personal interest in school related items on the agenda if they were school or college governors. All Members present except Councillor R.C. Bithell (who is not a school governor) declared an interest as school governors.

97. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011-2014 'MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE'

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report to inform of progress and achievements within the Children and Young People's (CYP)

Plan 2011-2014 'Making a Positive Difference' which records what work needs to be done, and by whom, to achieve improved outcomes for children, young people and families in Flintshire. He introduced Ann Roberts, Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator, and invited her to give a presentation on the CYP Plan.

The Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator provided background information and advised that 'Making a Positive Difference' was for everyone aged 0-19 years in Flintshire, as well as youth services and services provided to young people leaving care up to the age of 25 years. The vision for the 2011-2014 plan was "All Flintshire children, young people and families will be safe, healthy and free from poverty, disadvantage and inequalities of opportunity". The Children and Young People's Plan had identified shared priorities with the Health Social Care and Well-being strategy.

The Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator reported on the achievements relating to the seven Action Area priorities contained within the CYP Plan. She also gave a presentation on a DVD that bilingual students had developed with the CYPP as the children and young people friendly version of the CYPP Plan which had enabled access to the CYPP Plan message for all children, young people and families in a children and young people friendly approach.

In response to a question from Councillor H.J. McGuill the Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator explained that the DVD would be shown to pupils in Primary and Secondary schools. She said that the purpose of the DVD was to inform young people where they could go to get help and would be used in sessions with support staff.

Councillor McGuill raised further questions around the support provided for talented children. The Director of Lifelong Learning commented on the support provided based on participation through to progression to ensure youngsters achieved their potential. He advised that the Authority continued to monitor whether all youngsters were able to access good sporting and cultural opportunities. Officers responded in detail to the questions raised by Members concerning charges for tuition provided outside the curriculum.

During discussion Officers responded to the comments and queries raised by Members concerning the issues of domestic and family abuse, and work in conjunction with Barnardos.

The Chairman thanked the Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator for her presentation and detailed responses to Members' questions.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be received; and

- (b) That the Young People's Partnership Co-ordinator be thanked for her presentation and detailed responses to Members' questions.

98. ATTAINMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report to provide an update on the attainment of Looked After Children in Flintshire – March 2012 and invited David Messum, Principal Learning Advisor, to provide an overview of the attainment of Looked After Children.

The Principal Learning Advisor advised that the data was based on the last day of the academic year 2010/2011 for pupils in care on that day, regardless of how long they had been in care, and who were of statutory school age (between 5 and 16 years). He reported on the data which had been grouped into four age groups corresponding to National Curriculum Key Stages 1 to 4.

Councillor R.C. Bithell emphasised the need for early intervention in terms of those children whose difficulties are not so clearly defined. Councillor H.T. Isherwood commented on the need for an holistic approach which encompassed parents who may themselves have learning difficulties, emotional or social behavioural difficulties. Councillor H.J. McGuill sought further clarification from the Principal Learning Advisor on the number of Looked After Children in Pupil Referral Units.

Councillor E.W. Owen expressed his appreciation for the hard work and commitment undertaken by Flintshire Foster Carers to assist Looked After Children to achieve their full potential.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the attainment of Looked After Children continues to be closely monitored and reported on;
- (b) That the new literacy and numeracy strategy (from June onwards in Wales) be used to further identify and upskill those children and young people who may not be achieving to their potential;
- (c) That those children who have Additional Learning Needs (ALN) continue to access specialist support to help them reach their potential;
- (d) The Social Services and Lifelong Learning Directorates continue to work collaboratively to further enhance and embed consistent approaches with regard to Looked After Children; and
- (e) That there is a continuation of support for Looked After Children from the School Effectiveness Grant from the Welsh Government.

99. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

The Director of Community Services introduced a progress report on the joint Flintshire and Wrexham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The Director provided background information and advised that the Flintshire and Wrexham LSCB was operational with an agreed structure in place. The LSCB Executive Board had agreed its vision and developed and approved its three year strategic plan and annual business plan which was attached to the report. The Board had also formally endorsed its constitution and budget contributions.

The Director introduced Peter Robson, Service Manager Resources, and invited him to give an overview of the work and progress made to date to promote the involvement of and consultation with Children, Young People, Parents and Carers in the development and review of the work of the LSCB. Members were informed that the joint LSCB had undertaken an annual self assessment using the Welsh Government LSCB Self Assessment and Improvement Tool. The self assessment would support the LSCB in measuring its effectiveness, identifying areas of development, and would inform the content of the business plan for the following year. The Board would develop an annual report of its work which would be made available and published on its web pages early 2012/13. The Director advised that one of the potential projects for the future was the development of a junior LSCB.

During discussion Members raised concerns regarding WG plans to regionalise safeguarding boards. The view held by Members was that whilst there were some benefits to a regional board there was a need to retain an appropriate local emphasis.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

100. ANNUAL UPDATE ON CORPORATE PARENTING ACTIVITY

The Director of Community Services introduced a report to provide an update on activity surrounding the corporate parenting responsibilities of the County Council which were first set out in "Circles of Care – Corporate Parenting in Flintshire".

The Director provided background information and reported that the main corporate parenting activity within the Authority centred around the work of the Children's Services Forum which was assisted by two participation groups. He emphasised the importance of corporate parenting as a key task for Members and advised that the annual activity update on corporate parenting within the Authority was appended to the report.

Councillor R.C. Bithell commented on the need for Members to have more direct contact in their role as corporate parents with Looked after Children and Children in Leaving Care. Councillor H.J. McGuill requested that training be provided for Members following the elections in May on their role and responsibilities as Corporate Parents. She also referred to the proposal that Looked After Children and Children in Leaving Care be provided with a contact card so that they can get in touch with the Member(s) of the Ward in which they live when they needed to.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

101. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There was one member of the press in attendance and no members of the public present.

102. DURATION OF THE MEETING

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 12.10 p.m.

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Chairman

SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
CODE OF CONDUCT

LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		DATE: 29 March, 2012
MEMBER	ITEM	MINUTE NO.
Councillors: D. Barratt, R.C. Bithell, D.L. Cox, P.J. Curtis, R. Dolphin, H.T. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, C. Legg, D.I. Mackie, R.P. Macfarlane, H.J. McGuill, E.W. Owen, C.A. Thomas and W.O. Thomas <u>Co-opted Member:</u> Mrs. R. Stark	Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014 'Making a Positive Difference'	97
	Attainment of Looked After Children	98
	Flintshire and Wrexham Local Safeguarding Children Board	99
	Annual update on Corporate Parenting Activity	100