

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

DATE: **THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2012**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT ON
PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
ESTYN ACTION PLAN**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To consider the progress with implementation 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 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 its progress and performance including support for additional learning needs, promoting social inclusion and well-being, access and school places, partnership working and resource management.

2.03 Flintshire County Council complained to Estyn about inflexible and inappropriate conclusions in relation to the school standards element of the framework. Concerns were also expressed about inaccurate information used within the inspection and within draft reports. Standards achieved in Flintshire on key indicators are set out at Appendix 2. Estyn made a number of amendments to report drafts prior to publication, but also concluded that the judgements were within the range possible to the team. Good is defined as many strengths and no important areas requiring significant improvement. Adequate is defined as strengths outweigh areas for improvement.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

3.01 All education providers produce action plans to address Estyn inspection recommendations following inspection. The Action Plan was submitted to Estyn April 2012, following consideration by Lifelong

Learning Overview and Scrutiny on 22 March 2012 and Executive on 27 March 2012. A copy of the full Estyn Action Plan is in the Member's Library.

3.02 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.

3.03 Progress with implementation of the action plan will be monitored by an Estyn team in early 2013. The team will be led by Mererid Stone HMI.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 Members are asked to consider progress with implementation of the Estyn 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 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 personnel implications arising directly from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 The 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 Progress Monitoring Report

Appendix 2 – Standards in Flintshire

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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