

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2012**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

SUBJECT: **SCHOOL PERFORMANCE MONITORING GROUP**

1.00 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To seek views on creation of a renewed group to monitor and support the improvement of school standards in Flintshire.

2.00 **BACKGROUND**

2.01 The County Council has a duty under the School Standards and Framework Act (1998) to raise standards in schools. This is reinforced under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Section 1 which places a duty on local authorities to promote high standards and the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. The County Council fulfils these responsibilities through its School Improvement Strategies.

2.02 In Flintshire, the County Council's school improvement work has been consistently monitored by the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Committee considers overall trends in performance and strategies for improvement. Information about individual school performance and interventions is considered at an officer meeting with the Chairman of Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet Member for Education. This is due to sensitivities about the impact on individual schools causing concern of wide debate about their position.

3.00 **CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The 2011 Estyn LAESCYP inspection of Flintshire County Council included a recommendation that there should be improvement in how senior officers and all elected members work together to improve standards for 'all learners'. The April 2012 post-inspection Action Plan included a commitment to broadening elected members' engagement with individual school improvement issues.

3.02 Appendix 1 contains a draft 'terms of reference' for a working group of Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee to monitor school improvement work with individual schools. Monitoring of overall

school improvement performance and strategies would remain with the full Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That the attached terms of reference are considered by Cabinet.

4.02 That a renewed School Performance Monitoring Group is established as a 'working group' of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.01 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

6.01 A key aspect of school improvement work is to ensure that young people from low income backgrounds have learning opportunities and outcomes as positive as the wider population.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 Local authority school improvement work is focused in ensuring that all children and young people have the best possible learning opportunities and outcomes.

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Further consultation be undertaken with Headteacher Federations and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Initial consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and the Chairman of Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: School Standards Monitoring Group – Draft Terms of References

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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