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Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a  
Democrataidd



**TO: Councillor: Peter Macfarlane  
(Chairman)**

Chris Bithell, Rosetta Dolphin, Ted Evans, Fred Gillmore,  
Trefor Howorth, Hilary Isherwood, Colin Legg, Dave  
Mackie, Doreen Mackie, Hilary McGuill, Tim Newhouse,  
Ian Roberts, Carolyn Thomas, Owen Thomas

**Ms. Carole Burgess, Mr. David Hytch, Mrs. T.  
Millington, Mrs. Rita Price and Mrs. Rebecca Stark**

Your Ref /  
Eich Cyf

ur Ref / Ein Cyf ST 0

Date / Dyddiad 03/06/2011

Ask for /  
Gofynner am Maureen Potter

Direct Dial /  
Rhif Union 01352 702322

Fax / Ffacs

Dear Sir / Madam,

A meeting of the **LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
will be held in the **DELYN COMMITTEE ROOM, COUNTY HALL, MOLD** on  
**THURSDAY, 09 JUNE 2011** at **14:00** to consider the following items.

Yours faithfully

Democracy and Governance Manager

#### **AGENDA**

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING  
DECLARATIONS)**
3. **MINUTES**  
To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings held on  
08/03/2011 and 14/04/2011 (copies enclosed).
4. **SCHOOL MODERNISATION**  
Report of Director of Lifelong Learning enclosed
5. **14-19 EDUCATIONAL PROVISION**  
To receive a verbal report.

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The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English  
Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

6. **QUARTER 4/YEAR END PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2010/11**  
Report of Learning and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator enclosed
7. **PLAY AREAS**  
Report of Learning and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator enclosed
8. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**  
Report of Learning and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator enclosed

**LIFELONG LEARNING**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**8 MARCH, 2011**

Minutes of the meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held at County Hall, Mold on Tuesday, 8 March, 2011.

**PRESENT: Councillor R.P. MacFarlane (Chairman)**

**Councillors:** G.H. Bateman, A.J. Davies-Cooke, R. Dolphin, E.F. Evans, F.Gillmore, H.T. Howorth, C. Legg, D.L. Mackie, H.J. McGuill, I.B. Roberts and C.A. Thomas.

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Mr. D. Hytch, Mrs. R. Price and Mrs. T. Millington .

**SUBSTITUTIONS:** Councillors D.L. Cox for R.C. Bithell and J.C. Cattermoul for T. Newhouse.

**APOLOGIES:** Executive Member for Education, Ms. C. Burgess and Mrs. R. Stark.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor M. Bateman.

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Executive Member for Leisure Services and Public Protection, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Schools Services, Head of Development and Resources, Head of Libraries, Culture and Heritage, Secondary Phase Officer, and Principal Primary Officer.

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

**85. 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 declared an interest as school governors.

**86. MINUTES**

- (i) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 January, 2011 were submitted.

**Accuracy**

Councillor D.L. Mackie commented that she had been substituted by Councillor D.I. Mackie at the meeting. She advised that Councillor D.I. Mackie had declared an interest as a school governor and asked that this be recorded in the minutes.

Matters arising

Mr. D Hytch commented on the removal of café areas in some Leisure Centres. The Director of Lifelong Learning referred to the 2011/12 budget and advised that the decision had been taken to no longer have managed cafés at the Leisure Centres based in Mold and Holywell and arrangements would be made to implement the decision accordingly.

**RESOLVED:**

That subject to the above the minutes be received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

- (ii) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 January, 2011 were submitted.

Accuracy

Councillor D.L. Mackie commented that she had been substituted by Councillor D.I. Mackie at the meeting. She advised that Councillor D.I. Mackie had declared an interest as a school governor and asked that the minutes be amended to record this.

**RESOLVED:**

That subject to the above the minutes be received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

- (iii) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 January, 2011 were submitted.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

- (iv) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 January, 2011 were submitted.

Matters arising

Councillor G.H. Bateman asked for an update on developments concerning Saltney Library. The Head of Libraries, Culture and Heritage advised that a meeting of the interested parties was to be held next week.

Councillor C.A. Thomas raised a question concerning funding for playgroups and in response the Director stated that he would be writing to playgroups to confirm the funding arrangements for 2011/12.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes be received, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **87. PUPIL ATTAINMENT 2009/2010**

The Head of Schools Services introduced a report to provide a summary of pupil attainment across primary and secondary school phases for the school year 2009/2010. He advised that the pupil attainment data had been derived from statutory assessments administered by schools and from public examinations during the school year 2009/10.

The Head of Services introduced Mrs Janice Dickens, Principal Primary Officer, and invited her to give an overview of pupil attainment results at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The Principal Primary Officer referred to the analysis of pupil attainment in statutory assessment attached to the report for pupils in years 2 and 6. She referred to the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum Assessment results for 2010 which had identified a slight decrease in results for the core subject of English, Welsh and Mathematics. She advised that Officers believed that changes related to the early implementation of the Foundation Phase strategies had contributed to the 'dip' in Primary schools and referred to the issues which were to be addressed. However, the Principal Primary Officer reported that Estyn inspections of Flintshire schools during the past two years had reported that children had made good progress towards Foundation Phase outcomes. She also advised that Estyn had expressed a general concern about the accuracy and consistency of teacher assessments across Wales.

Referring to the Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Assessment results for 2010 the Principal Primary Officer advised that there had been an improvement in the results for English and Mathematics and that Flintshire remained in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile at KS2 in all subjects except Welsh first language. However, she reported that there had been a downward trend in the Authority's position compared to other Local Authorities which would continue to be addressed through the Primary Strategy.

During discussion a number of queries and concerns were expressed by Members regarding the 'dip' in results for KS 1 and 2. The Principal Primary Officer responded to the questions raised and referred to the good practice in many schools and the regular monitoring which took place of literacy and numeracy. She also commented on the training plan from WAG which had been followed and developed and the work to be undertaken in terms of transition from KS1 to KS2. It was agreed that the Principal Primary Officer would provide quarterly monitoring updates on the Foundation Phase to future meetings of the Committee and that Members would be invited to attend a meeting to develop their involvement with the Foundation Phase.

Councillor I.B. Roberts expressed the view that there was a correlation between the Primary KS1 and KS2 results for 2010 and the low level of delegated funding for schools in Flintshire. In response to the concerns raised the Director of Lifelong Learning referred to the Council Fund Revenue budget and the commitment given at the meeting of the County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> March to review how funding was deployed in Flintshire for Education. He

advised that when the review was fully scoped there would be an opportunity for representation from all groups to consider the arguments and actions put forward on the level of resources to schools to achieve best outcomes for pupils.

The Head of Services introduced Mr Kevin Grandfield, Secondary Phase Officer, and invited him to give an overview of pupil attainment in statutory assessment results at the end of Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

The Secondary Phase Officer referred to the results for KS3 and reported that in two of the three core subjects over 80% of pupils had achieved level 5 or better and the Authority was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> highest in Wales for KS3.

The Secondary Phase Officer referred to the positive outcomes of the National Curriculum Assessment results for KS4 and KS5 in 2010 and commented on the high standards which continued to be maintained. In response to Members' queries the Secondary Phase Officer reported on the collaborative work being undertaken to provide vocational courses and an overview of the Welsh Baccalaureate scheme.

Councillor I.B. Roberts suggested, and it was agreed, that the Chairman would write to all schools on behalf of the Committee to express appreciation and congratulations to Headteachers, pupils and school staff for their hard work and commitment.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the report be received and the attainment of Flintshire pupils for the year 2009/10 be noted;
- (b) That Members receive regular reports on the Secondary and Primary strategies;
- (c) That the Principal Primary Officer provides quarterly monitoring updates on the Foundation Phase to future meetings of the Committee;
- (d) That Members be invited to attend a meeting to develop their involvement with the Foundation Phase;
- (e) That the Chairman writes to all schools on behalf of the Committee to express appreciation and congratulations to Headteachers, pupils and school staff for their hard work and commitment.

### **88. ARSON, VANDALISM AND BURGLARIES TO FLINTSHIRE SCHOOLS**

The Head of Development and Resources introduced a report to update Members on the implementation of the recommendations submitted to and approved by the Executive in 2006 regarding the review of measures

taken to reduce and/or prevent arson, vandalism and burglaries to Flintshire schools.

The Head of Development and Resources reported that there had been a positive downward trend in the number of incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries to schools in Flintshire. He advised that the report set out the progress made since last year in implementing a number of measures in consultation with the Joint Action Group, School Security Group and with schools. He referred to the work and training of school caretakers and the success of a multi agency approach which had significantly contributed to the improvements achieved so far.

The Head of Development and Resources advised that Community Safety colleagues in the North Wales Arson Reduction Team had been able to secure Welsh Assembly grant funding for three schools which, as a result, will benefit from new CCTV systems, additional CCTV cameras and improved security lighting.

Councillor H.T. Howorth referred to the need to liaise with local relevant parties and cited the Police and school caretakers as an example, on the design of new school buildings. Mr. D. Hytch emphasised the need for continued vigilance and referred to the importance of collaboration between professionals in areas of Education, design and construction. The Head of Development and Resources advised that architects were currently working with community police officers regarding building design and he also referred to some of the successful initiatives which had been undertaken by schools to address the issue and encourage a sense of "ownership" for pupils and the local community. Councillor D.L. Mackie suggested that Members might wish to contact the North Wales Arson Reduction Team for advice regarding issues in their Ward.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the update be noted; and
- (b) That a further progress report be presented to the Committee in twelve months time.

### **89. 14-19 EDUCATIONAL PROVISION**

The Head of Development and Resources introduced a report to update Members on the seminar held on the 17 February 2011 on the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) relating to the 14-19 provision. He advised that the SOC had been submitted to the Welsh Assembly for consideration of the options and the Authority was awaiting a decision on the document which was expected in June following the Assembly elections in May.

In response to a query from Councillor C.A. Thomas the Head of Development and Resources advised that capital funding for 14-19 provision

was not guaranteed and that Local Authorities needed to make their own plans if the funding was not provided.

**RESOLVED**

That the update be noted.

**90. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2010/11**

The Chairman invited the Heads of Service to present their Quarter 3 performance reports for the period October to December, and provide an update on the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) within the reports. Members were also asked to note the progress made against the Improvement Target Action Plans contained within the performance reports.

The Head of Libraries, Culture and Heritage introduced the quarterly report of the Head of Leisure Services which provided an overview of the main issues and performance for Leisure Services. He advised that the focus of the quarterly report was on progress made to date regarding implementation of the Leisure Strategy. The Head of Libraries, Culture and Heritage referred to the future sustainability of the Play Unit's service provision and reported that an announcement had now been received from the Assembly that Cymorth funding had been agreed for the next financial year. During a discussion Councillor H.J. McGuill emphasised the need to ensure community groups were aware of funding streams available. Councillor C.A. Thomas advised that this could be considered at the next meeting of the Task and Finish Group. In response to a query from Councillor H.J. McGuill concerning Section 106 Agreements Officers advised that the Planning Department consulted with all relevant teams concerning developments of over 5 houses and a process was in place and subject to scrutiny.

The Head of Libraries, Culture and Heritage introduced the quarterly report for Libraries, Culture and Heritage. He referred to the Welsh Public Library Standards requirement to establish and report on customer satisfaction and reported that a recent survey had been conducted of children under 16. He advised that the outcome of the survey would be reported to a future meeting of the Committee. Councillor C.A. Thomas raised a query concerning the revised schedule for mobile library visits in rural areas. In response the Head of Service explained the rationale for the review and gave an assurance that mobile visits would continue in rural areas and that service users and Town and Community Councils would be informed of the new arrangements.

The Head of Schools Services introduced the quarterly performance report for Schools Services and gave an overview of the performance and main issues for the Schools Services division. He reported on developments in Curriculum and Teaching, Leadership, Improvement and Accountability,



Intervention and Support, Working with Others, and the Inclusion Service Strategy Autumn Review.

Mr. D. Hytch referred to the Respecting Others agenda which was launched in the Autumn Term to all schools and raised the issue of cyber bullying. In response the Head of Schools Services gave an assurance that incidents of cyber bullying were treated with priority and he offered to provide further information to Members on the work being undertaken to address the matter.

The Head of Development and Resources introduced the quarterly report for Development and Resources. He referred to Service Level Agreements and advised that a list of the Agreements had been sent to all schools, including a number of additional services, with a request to schools to respond by Easter as to whether they wished to buy-back into the services or not.

The Head of Development and Resources reported that the Authority had been successful in gaining two grants from the Welsh Assembly which would make a significant contribution to the new build programme of schools in Connah's Quay and Shotton. Referring to the Shotton development, he advised that the Assembly had announced a delay in the payment of tranche 3, however, the Authority had made alternative funding arrangements for the programme to proceed. The Head of Development and Resources also gave an update on the schools repair and maintenance budget and reported that additional funding for capital repairs had been received from the Assembly in February with the proviso that it was spent before the end of March. He commented that the increase to the budget would assist with the pace of work, however, pressure on the budget remained due to the significant backlog of repairs for the foreseeable future.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the reports be noted; and
- (b) That the Head of Schools Services agreed to provide further information to Members on the work being undertaken to address cyber bullying.

**91. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator, introduced a report the purpose of which was to consider the Forward Work Programme of the Committee.

Members reviewed the current programme and agreed that the following items be scheduled for consideration at the meeting of the Committee on 14 April:

- Educational Attainment of Looked After Children
- Children and Young People Plan

- Family Support Services
- 14-19 educational provision

**RESOLVED**

That having regard to the above, the Forward Work Programme be amended where necessary, received and noted.

**92. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

**93. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**

There were two members of the press present.

**94. DURATION OF THE MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and concluded at 4.45 p.m.

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**Chairman**

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

<b>LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>		<b>DATE: 8 March, 2011</b>
<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTE NO.</b>
<p>Councillors R.P. MacFarlane, G.H. Bateman, A.J. Davies- Cooke, R. Dolphin, E.F. Evans, F. Gillmore, H.T. Howorth, C. Legg, D.L. Mackie, H.J. McGill, I.B. Roberts and C.A. Thomas.</p>		

**JOINT MEETING OF  
LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND  
SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
14 APRIL, 2011**

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, 14 April, 2011.

**PRESENT: Councillor R.P. MacFarlane (Chairman)**

Councillors: D. Barratt, G.H. Bateman, M. Bateman, R.C. Bithell, R. Dolphin, E.F. Evans, V. Gay, F. Gillmore, H.T. Howorth, H.T. Isherwood, R.B. Jones, C. Legg, D.L. Mackie, D.I. Mackie, H.J. McGuill, E.W. Owen, I.B. Roberts and C.A. Thomas

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:** Mr. D. Hytch and Mrs. R. Stark

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillors K Armstrong-Braun, M. Bateman and H.D. Hutchinson

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors J.C. Cattermoul, P.J. Curtis, A.J. Davies- Cooke, C. A. Thomas, W.O. Thomas, and Mrs. T. Millington

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Executive Member for Education , Executive Member for Social Services, Director of Lifelong Learning, Head of Children's Services, Principal Learning Advisor (Inclusion Service), Learning Advisor for Looked After Children, Children's Partnership Coordinator, and Young Peoples Partnership Coordinator

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Member Engagement Manager, Learning and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Facilitator and Committee Officer.

**1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**

At the start of the meeting the Member Engagement Manager sought nominations for a Chairman.

**RESOLVED**

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

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (including Whipping Declarations)**

The Chairman referred to the need for the standard declaration.

### **3. ATTAINMENT OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report to update Members of the attainment of Looked After Children who were in Year 11 in 2009/10. He explained that the report aimed to provide an overview of some of the excellent achievements gained by the Authority's Looked After Children during 2009/10 and highlight the key issues concerning the support provided to them. He introduced Ms. K. Wylde, Learning Advisor for Looked After Children, and invited her to present the report.

The Learning Advisor for Looked After Children advised that there was a 100% increase in the cohort of Looked After Children in Year 11 in comparison to 2008/09. She explained that analysis of the information contained in appendix 1 to the report highlighted that all but one young person obtained formal qualifications in 2010 and significantly nine out of the sixteen relevant young people did not become Looked After by the Authority until reaching 14 years of age.

The Learning Advisor for Looked After Children reported that Flintshire schools were continuing to develop their strategies to successfully support looked after students. She explained that the key factors which caused barriers to academic success for looked after children were often due to behavioural, emotional and social difficulties experienced at key stages in the academic cycle which may be due to placement breakdown, court proceedings or contact with their biological family. The Learning Advisor for Looked After Children advised that obtaining qualifications at Year 11 supports individual resilience and impacts on a student's ability to succeed in college or obtain employment at post 16.

The Learning Advisor for Looked After Children reported on the additional resources provided for students with a high level of additional needs and advised that in the academic year 2009/10 no Looked After Children were permanently excluded from education.

Members expressed their appreciation for the commitment and dedicated work of Officers, teachers, schools, and paid tribute to all involved in supporting Looked After Children to achieve success in the educational, vocational and employment opportunities available to them.

Councillor H.J. McGuill referred to the responsibilities of Members as Corporate Parents and asked if more information could be provided to Members on the progress of their Looked After Children as they moved through the key stages of their educational and employment development. In her response the Learning Advisor for Looked After Children referred to the assessments undertaken of young people at 7, 11 and 14 and offered to provide a report on the educational achievement of Looked After Children to Members for information at the next meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Head of Children's Services referred to a proposal to undertake a survey of Looked After Children and Foster Carers to obtain their views on how the educational support provided to

Looked After Children had been managed and offered to provide a report on the outcome of the survey to Members for information.

**RESOLVED**

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the Learning Advisor for Looked After Children be requested to provide a report on the educational achievement of Looked After Children to the next meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Members' information; and
- (c) That the Head of Children's Services be requested to provide a report to Members for information on the outcome of a survey to obtain the view of Looked After Children and Foster Carers on how their educational support has been managed.

**4. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN**

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report to inform Members of the Flintshire Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2014. He provided background information and invited the Ms Gill Harrison, Children's Partnership Coordinator, and Ms Ann Roberts, the Young Peoples Partnership Coordinator to present the Children and Young People's Plan.

The Young Peoples Partnership Coordinator explained that the Plan sets out the local vision and aspirations for the Children, Young People and Families in Flintshire and had been developed in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. She advised that the Plan would be a key document in determining how resources were deployed for services to Children, Young People and Families in Flintshire.

The main points of the presentation were as follows:

- What is the Children and Young People's Partnership
- What is the Children and Young People's Partnership Plan
- Fulfilling our responsibilities
- Children and Young People have a healthy lifestyle
- Workforce Development
- Making it happen
- Moving Forward
- Action Areas

Councillor R.C. Bithell referred to the difficult circumstances imposed on families as a result of the current economic climate and the issue of poverty. The Young People's Partnership Coordinator advised that the needs assessment/health profile which underpins the Children and Young People's Plan included a consideration of poverty and deprivation and its impact on Children, Young People and Families. She continued that the Flintshire Children and Young People's Plan set out the local context and

referred to the priorities and strategic objectives which would have a direct and an indirect impact on the causes of deprivation and poverty.

During a discussion Officers responded to the queries and concerns raised by Members concerning, domestic abuse, parenting skills, and the inequalities which existed in health care and education. The Director of Lifelong Learning commented that although the challenges were significant a difference could be made to society as a result of individual, group and family interventions.

Members expressed their appreciation for the hard work and commitment of Officers and staff. It was agreed that the Chairman would write on behalf of the Lifelong Learning and Social & Health Care Committees to the Children and Young People's Partnership Board to record Members' appreciation for the hard work and commitment of all involved in the Children and Young People's Plan.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That on behalf of the Joint Lifelong Learning and Social & Health Care Committees a letter be sent by the Chairman to the Children and Young People's Partnership Board to express appreciation for the hard work and commitment of all involved in the Children and Young People's Plan.

## **5. FAMILIES FIRST PROGRAMME**

The Children's Partnership Coordinator introduced a report of the Director of Lifelong Learning to inform Members of the development of the Families First Programme and the transition from the Cymorth Programme to the Families First Programme.

The Children's Partnership Coordinator explained that the Welsh Assembly published their Child Poverty Strategy in February 2011 which sets out the national context and the Children and Young People's Plan, which the Authority is required to develop every three years, provides the local context. She advised that the Strategy defined child poverty as a long term state of not have sufficient resources to afford food, reasonable living conditions or amenities, or to participate in activities.

The Children's Partnership Coordinator referred to the Families First programme which was launched by the Minister for Children in July 2010 to mitigate against the effects of poverty on the outcomes for children. She gave a presentation on the development of Families First in Flintshire and advised that the aim was to develop a whole family approach built around an integrated service approach to provide holistic support to children and families at every level of need. She referred to the collaborative work being

undertaken with Wrexham and Denbighshire and the main work streams of the Families First programme.

During a discussion Councillor R.B. Jones referred to the parenting of children and expressed the need to improve the skills and expectations of parents. Councillor H.J McGuill referred to the use of a common assessment toolkit. In her response the Children's Partnership Coordinator explained that the toolkit was a folder which contained a range of documents relating to intervention services and she offered to make a sample pack available for Members information in the Members Room. Councillor McGuill raised a further query concerning what happened if a parent refused to engage. The Children's Partnership Coordinator explained that the 'door' was always open and that the aim was not to monitor families but to work with them to provide help and support.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the report be accepted; and
- (b) That the Children's Partnership Coordinator provides a sample 'toolkit' pack for Members' information in the Members Room.

## **6. ANNUAL UPDATE ON CORPORATE PARENTING ACTIVITY**

The Head of Children's Services introduced a report to provide an update to Members on activity surrounding the corporate parenting responsibilities of the County Council which were first set out in "Circles of Care: Corporate Parenting in Flintshire".

Members referred to the report on Corporate Parenting which was attached as an appendix to the report and subsequently the Swansea Review of Corporate Parenting. During a discussion it was suggested and agreed that the recommendations within the Swansea report should be considered by the Children's Services Forum. The Head of Children's Services agreed to progress the matter via the Children's Services Forum and to consult with her senior management team on the item.

Councillors H.J. McGuill and R.C. Bithell referred to the role of Members as corporate parents and expressed the need to have a deeper involvement in terms of the needs and development of Looked After Children. Councillor H.J. McGuill referred to the recommendation within the Swansea report whereby Councillors were provided with information about Looked After Children (in terms of numbers), by electoral division. The Head of Children's Services offered to contact the Head of Children's Services in Swansea to ascertain how this information was provided.

In response to a request from Councillor H.T. Howorth it was agreed that an item on Corporate Parenting be included on the agenda for consideration at a future meeting of the Social & Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.



## **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That an item on Corporate Parenting be included on the agenda for consideration at a future meeting of the Social & Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **7. TRANSFORMING EDUCATION: NORTH WALES REGIONAL COLLABORATION PROJECT FOR THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SERVICES – PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 2011**

The Director of Lifelong Learning introduced a report to update Members on the progress made to date with the implementation of the North Wales Regional School Improvement Service project and to outline the next steps to completion of a detailed business plan by Summer 2011.

The Director provided background information and referred to the key considerations in the report. He outlined the progress made to date concerning the Regional School Improvement Service in terms of consultation with schools and staff and advised that support had been given in principle but more detail was required. He also explained that schools would not sign up to the business case until governors issues had been resolved. The Director advised that the outline business plan, following completion, would be considered by the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee prior to final approval being given to implement the proposed regional service.

In response to a comment from Mr. D. Hytch concerning the time taken to implement the proposals the Director referred to the importance of ensuring there was a significant change of practice and explained the need for statutory consultation to take place and negotiations in terms of staff, unions, and I.T. systems. The Director advised that he expected that the services would be in place by 2012.

During a discussion Members raised queries about monitoring of performance, accountability and scrutiny. In his response the Director explained that given the national context in terms of education performance and the drive for more consistency and higher standards, there would be more accountability and scrutiny in the future and referred to the mechanisms which would be in place in addition to those already within individual Local Authorities.

## **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the update be noted; and

- (b) That the outline business plan (following completion) be considered by the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee prior to final approval being given to implement the proposed regional service.

**8. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no members of the public present.

**9. ATTENDANCE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**

There was one member of the press present.

**10. DURATION OF THE MEETING**

The meeting commenced at 2.00 p.m. and concluded at 5.10 p.m.

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**Chairman**

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

<b>LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>		<b>DATE: 14 April, 2011</b>
<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTE NO.</b>

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4

**REPORT TO:** **LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**DATE :** **09 JUNE 2011**  
**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**  
**SUBJECT :** **SCHOOL MODERNISATION**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01 The purpose of the report is to outline the process for commissioning community consultation for Area Reviews of Secondary School Provision, in accordance with the Council's School Modernisation Strategy. It is also to identify the Scrutiny Panel's role within reviews

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 Flintshire County Council is committed to working with schools and communities to secure high quality learning opportunities for all. It also seeks to use the resources that it has (people, funding, buildings, information and technology) efficiently and effectively to secure better outcomes and value for money. We do this building on the knowledge that all Secondary Schools in Flintshire are improving schools, and committed to successful outcomes for learners.

The County Council's Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges, Estyn Inspection reports, the School Modernisation Strategy, the 14-19 Transformation Strategic Outline Case, Directorate Plans and previous Scrutiny reports set out the challenge that we face.. The challenge is to ensure that our schools continue to provide an appropriate 'fit for purpose' environment at a time when there is limited money to deliver increasing expectations. Too many of our schools are also in inappropriate buildings that cannot meet the needs of current or future pupils and staff.

Key issues that inform the debate are:

- the duty to provide sufficient school places in the right places;
- population forecasts indicating demographic changes affecting both urban and rural communities;
- raising educational standards through high quality teaching and learning and improving the learning environment;
- seeking to minimise the impact of transitions between different stages of education;
- local and national initiatives to make all school buildings "fit for purpose" for the 21st century and removing excessive surplus places;
- future financial settlements leaving decreasing financial room for manoeuvre;
- significant differences in the way schools are funded, with very small provision being disproportionately expensive;

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Date: 03/06/2011

- the breadth of educational and extra-curricular provision very small schools can provide; schools and their buildings being important to their communities, and being able to do more than provide education for children; and
- the challenge of refurbishment and renewal without sufficient money to replace, remodel or improve all adequate school buildings.

In its 2009 report on the strategic management of education in Flintshire, ESTYN identified tackling school modernisation as a key recommendation. Whilst recognising considerable preparatory work has been undertaken over the last few years, the 2011 14-19 Area Inspection recommends that there is still a major challenge to address inefficient provision. There is a need to make key decisions in relation to some school communities.

The 2009 School Modernisation Strategy sets out that consultation will take place to develop a plan for the future of local educational provision under a number of circumstances, including when schools have more than 25% surplus places.

Following consultation with stakeholders on the original School Modernisation Strategy and the subsequent "Transformation" business case, it is now the time for students and parents to be involved in developing the next steps for education in their local areas. This will be formally commissioned at the next Executive meeting.

The Welsh Government, Estyn and the Wales Audit Office have tasked Authorities in Wales to reduce surplus places in their school provision, in response to the general downturn in pupil numbers and to ensure that resources are best used to improve pupils' learning opportunities and outcomes. The future allocation of funding to improve learning environments also depends on reducing surplus capacity or finding alternative uses. The recent Thomas review recommends tying capital investment to having a resilient plan to reducing local surplus places to below 10%.

Maintaining under-used buildings (surplus places) incurs costs, and any savings made from the removal of surplus should be directed to the front-line educational provision, paying for teachers, teaching assistants, learning resources and improving learning environments.

The Flintshire School Modernisation Strategy includes the provision for the Area review of School Provision. The Strategy also includes the requirement to review schools with over 25% surplus places. There are currently three Secondary Schools in excess of this percentage. These schools account for the largest proportion of surplus places in Flintshire, at 64.44% of the overall surplus. The Schools are Holywell High School (409 surplus places, 38% of the school's capacity), Elfed High School (321 surplus places, 31% of the school's capacity) and John Summers High School (169 surplus places, 30% of the school's capacity).

It is fully recognised within the School Modernisation Strategy and the 14-19 Transformation Strategic Outline Case, that solutions cannot be found without the local authority, schools and other partners working together. The reviews of provision are to be held on an area basis. This will involve wider planning discussions in the three areas of Holywell, Queensferry/ Shotton/ Connah's Quay and Mold/ Mynydd Isa /Buckley.

The Welsh Government funds post-16 education directly, and does so on a basis of student numbers. The issue for many schools is the difficulty in sustaining a financially viable sixth form where numbers are low, and to maintain the breadth of curriculum required by the Welsh Government's Learning and Skills Measure. The 2009 Flintshire School Modernisation Strategy states that a sixth form should have a minimum of 120 students to remain financially viable, and to offer the breadth of curriculum choice that is now required in accordance with the Learning and Skills measure.

Other key issues which will be considered in commissioned area discussions include:

- the potential for educational opportunities and outcomes to be improved further, including provision for pupils and the 14-19 Transformation Programme;
- the need for the particular type of provision that is proposed, for example the level of demographic change or parental demand for faith schools in the area;
- compliance with equality legislation and the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for tackling child poverty;
- accessibility and journey times to schools;
- the effect on the Welsh language, Welsh medium learning and its maintenance in the community;
- considering additional community focused facilities or preserving existing community service provision offered by a school, together with the impact on the local community and on social cohesion;
- the condition of the buildings, their fitness for purpose, their backlog of repairs and maintenance and whether change would contribute towards achieving the County Council's agreed strategy for making all its school buildings fit for purpose; and
- the cost-effectiveness of change options and whether adequate financial resources are available to implement them

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Officers of the Authority will be seeking approval from the County Council's Executive to start a process of community consultation, which will involve Governors, Staff, Unions, Parents, Students and the wider Communities.

Options will be formulated as a basis for local area discussion, and an invitation will be extended to consultees to put forward their own options for consideration by the Authority. The Council's School Modernisation Strategy envisages that the following options will be appraised:

- removing temporary or unused accommodation;
- developing new school use of surplus accommodation;
- developing community use of premises;

- non-school use of surplus accommodation;
- closure of part of a school; and federations, merging/amalgamating schools, and where appropriate, school closure

Members of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be asked to scrutinise and advise on developments at each stage of the local area review process at future meetings. At its next meeting, the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee is expected to receive an initial option appraisal in relation to each area.

It is proposed that the initial consultation period begins before the end of the 2011 academic year, and that the process is resumed in September 2011. An indicative timetable is set out at Appendix 2. The purpose of open consultation is to:

- share the issues & seek solutions;
- explain the rationale and logic for the change options;
- ensure that participants feel fully part of the planning process;
- act as a mechanism for capturing feedback and informing the ongoing review process;
- ensure that we are transparent and honest at all times; and gain community awareness and support for any eventual change proposals

All responses to the consultations will be reported to members, and consideration will then be given to the outcomes of the consultation, and the formulation of preferred options which will then be the subject to the statutory process, which provides the opportunity for any formal objections to the preferred options. In the event of objections, the decision would be for Welsh Ministers of the Welsh Government.

It is envisaged that we will consult with students via school councils meeting together. This work will build upon the extensive “student voice” material developed as part of generating the 14-19 Transformation Strategic Outline Case.

It is envisaged that we will consult with parents of Students through published consultation booklets and school based drop-in sessions in which everyone attending will have the opportunity to communicate ideas for the future on key themes, such as:

- educational vision;
- safeguarding and well-being;
- community, leisure and culture;
- data, demography and information;
- transport and access planning; and development ideas and feedback collation

There will need to be appropriate direct meetings with school staff, governors and local Councillors. There will also need to be appropriate meetings with Trade Unions, Diocesan Authorities and other key partner organisations.

Scrutiny discussion is part of “stakeholder mapping” in which we consider if there are “hard to reach” or other groups for whom we should consider a bespoke consultation strategy

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That members consider the information and advise on the outlined methodology to be adopted in consulting with communities.

That members note the key role envisaged for scrutiny in considering developing option appraisals for future provision in each area.

That members commission a formal report to the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee at each stage of the area review process at Appendix 2.

That members consider an initial option appraisal in relation to each area at the next meeting of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 None at this stage

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 None at this stage

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None at this stage

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 A full equalities impact assessment is required as part of developing the business case and statutory proposals for any school organisational change.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None at this stage. The process for consultation will be overseen by a multi-disciplinary team drawn from across the Council

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 The report sets out key strategies for consultation on secondary school modernisation. There will be a requirement for further consultation with staff and service users and other partners over the next six months of the project development of business cases and possible statutory proposals

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**



11.01 Initial discussions with elected members, headteachers, governor representatives and partner organisations in relation to developing the review process.

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix A - Capacity and surplus place information ~January 2011  
Appendix B - proposed timescale for Area Reviews

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

Estyn Inspection Report 2009  
School modernisation Strategy 2009  
14-19 Transformation Outline Case 2009  
14-19 Transformation Strategic Outline Case 2010  
14-19 Area inspection 2011

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## Appendix A

**Chart 2.6 Secondary School Capacity and Surplus Places Information January 2011**

School	Type	NOR Year 7-11	NOR Year 12-13	NOR Total	Capacity	Surplus Capacity	%Surplus Places
Alun High	11-18	1218	491	1709	1768	59	3.34%
Argoed High	11-16	585	0	585	580	-5	-0.86%
Castell Alun High	11-18	1058	234	1292	1240	-52	-4.19%
Connah's Quay High	11-18	880	111	991	1102	111	10.07%
Elfed High	11-18	620	96	716	1037	321	30.95%
Flint High	11-18	605	89	694	797	151	21.24%
Hawarden High	11-18	949	198	1147	1145	-2	-0.86%
Holywell High	11-18	575	91	666	1075	409	38.05%
John Summers High	11-18	348	48	396	565	169	29.91%
St David's High	11-18	545	72	617	687	70	10.19%
St Richard Gwyn High	11-18 R.C.	809	130	939	1000	61	6.10%
Ysgol Maes Garmon	11-18 Welsh	473	87	560	711	151	21.24%
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>10312</b>	<b>11707</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>Average = 13.13%</b>

### Key Points:

- In January 2011 there were three Flintshire CC secondary schools with surplus places in excess of the Welsh Assembly Government's current recommended maximum level of 25% surplus places.
- These three schools; Elfed High, Holywell High and John Summers High taken together accounted for 64.44% of the surplus place capacity in the 12 Flintshire CC mainstream secondary schools in January 2011.
- The average surplus place percentage level for all 12 mainstream secondary schools in January 2011 was 13.13%.
- Some Flintshire sixth forms (Year 12 and Year 13) are extremely small, causing difficulty in terms of planning for curriculum breadth and financial sustainability.

Stage of Process	Description of process	Details
<b>Stage One</b>	<p><b><i>Consultation Stage</i></b></p> <p>Informal information gathering and sharing of data, in depth discussion of issues and ideas.            Consultation events.            Comments to be submitted to the County Council.</p>	<p>Meetings with Headteachers, Governors, Students and Public            Consultation deadline            September 30 2011.</p> <p>Report back to Executive in            October 2011.</p>
<b>Stage Two</b>	<p><b><i>Publication of Notices</i></b></p> <p>If agreed, Local Authority to formally propose changes to the schools through publication of a Statutory Notice.</p>	November 2011
<b>Stage Three</b>	<p><b><i>End of Statutory Notice Period</i></b></p> <p>Decision taken in light of comments and objections received and whether a referral to the Welsh Assembly Government is required.</p>	December 2011
<b>Stage Four</b>	<b><i>Implementation</i></b>	September 2012- September 2014

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 6

**REPORT TO:** **LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**DATE :** **09 JUNE 2011**  
**REPORT BY:** **LEARNING AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
FACILITATOR**  
**SUBJECT :** **QUARTER 4/YEAR END PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2010/11**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01 To note and consider the 2010/11 Quarter 4 / Year End service performance reports produced at the Head of Service / Divisional level under the adopted business model of the Council. (The reports cover the Quarter 4 period (January to March 2011) and contain a summary of the year end position).
- 1.02 To note the year end position of the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges (SARC) contained within the performance reports.
- 1.03 To note the progress made against the Improvement Target Action Plans contained within the performance reports.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 The quarterly performance / year end reports seek to provide the 'narrative' explanation of the statistical quarterly performance and year end summary. These reports are a review of service plans.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01 Copies of the detailed Quarter 4/Year End (January to March 2011) performance reports are attached at **Appendix 1.15 Leisure, ; Appendix 1.16 Libraries, Culture & Heritage, Appendix 1.17 School Services; Appendix 1.18 Resources & Development and Appendix 2 SARC summary position.**
- 3.02 The Improvement Targets, now included within the reports contain a schedule of all the Improvement Targets with analysis of the year end performance on targets and trend (comparison with the previous years performance). They incorporate the revised list of Improvement Targets endorsed by Executive on 18th January 2011, following the target setting work undertaken mid way through Quarter 3. Reporting against the Improvement Target Action Plans is also included within the performance reports.
- 3.03 Each quarterly performance report contains an update of each of the relevant

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strategic risks and challenges. This update has been provided by each of the lead responsible officers and is available for comment and review.

- 3.14 A revised SARC summary position of the present Red, Amber and Green status for all of the reported strategic risks and challenges is provided at Appendix 2.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That Members consider the 2010/11 Quarter 4/Year End performance reports produced by the Heads of Service, highlight and monitor poor performance and feedback details of any challenge to Corporate Resources O&S Committee who are responsible for the overview and monitoring of improvement targets.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 None directly from this report.

#### **6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01 None directly from this report.

#### **7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01 None directly from this report.

#### **8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01 None directly from this report.

#### **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.01 None directly from this report.

#### **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

- 10.01 Not applicable.

#### **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

- 11.01 Not applicable.

#### **12.00 APPENDICES**

- 12.01 **Appendix 1.15 Leisure ; Appendix 1.16 Libraries, Culture & Heritage; Appendix 1.17 School Services; Appendix 1.18 Resources & Development and Appendix 2 SARC summary position.**

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

None

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## QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

### LEISURE SERVICES (LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE)

REPORT AUTHOR: HEAD OF CULTURE & LEISURE  
REPORT DATE: MAY 2011  
REPORT PERIOD: YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011

#### INTRODUCTION

This performance report is based on the services and functions for which each Head of Service is responsible for. The report will be produced on a quarterly basis and provided to Executive members for review and assurance and available for Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of their Forward Work Programmes.

The report provides a Managerial Assessment as an overview of the key messages within the report and then provides evidence and data to inform that assessment from the following sources:

- Improvement Targets
- Improvement Agreement
- Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges
- Internal and external regulatory reports
- Customer satisfaction and feedback
- Awards and accreditations
- Resource Management (HR, ICT, Finance, Assets)

A Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status is provided as a 'guide' to the performance of particular issues where this can be evidenced.

#### RAG STATUS KEY

RED equates to a position or forecast position of under-performance, downward trend, non-achievement of target, non-achievement of action milestones.

AMBER equates to a mid position where improvement may have been made (i.e. improved trend) but the target for the year is unlikely to be reached, or where action milestones have been deferred or narrowly missed.

GREEN equates to a position or forecast position of positive trend on performance, meeting target and achieving action milestones.



## MANAGERIAL ASSESSMENT

Leisure Services incorporates the following service provision:

- Leisure Centres (including the ice rink & swimming pools)
- *Sport Flintshire* Sports Development Team
- *Kick-Start* Exercise Referral Scheme
- Play Unit (incorporating Play Design e.g. children's play areas, and Play Delivery e.g. summer play schemes)
- Grass sports pitches on school sites & non-school sites, artificial turf pitches, bowling greens & pavilions, and landscapes

### Overview (summary of main issues):

- Progress regarding the four-year Partnering Agreement between Flintshire County Council and Alliance Leisure for the re-development of the County's leisure portfolio.
- Decisions taken in relation to the Leisure Services' Action Plan and progress to date on the development of service level agreements between Leisure Services and three High School Governing Bodies.
- Post-March 2011 WAG funding arrangements for various posts within Sports Development, Play Development and the Exercise Referral Programme.
- Progress relating to the 2010/11 improvement scheme for children's play areas based upon a match-funding agreement between the County Council and seven Town & Community Councils; and 2011/12 match-funding proposals with ten Town & Community Councils.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Performance (National & Local P.I.'s)

#### 1. *Leisure Centres*

There is currently only one National Performance Indicator for Leisure Centres. N.P.I. LCS/002 records the number of visits to Local Authority Sport & Leisure Centres during the year where the visitor will be participating in physical activity, per 1,000 population.

For Q4 2010/11, the recorded figure is 3,054 visits per 1,000 population. The target was 2,989 visits and the intervention score was 2,749 visits. The number of recorded visits during Q4 2010/11 is + **2.16%** up on Q4 in 2009/10.

For the full Year 2010/11, the recorded figure is 11,077 visits per 1,000 population. The target was 10,873 visits and the intervention score was 10,000 visits. The annual target figure of 10,873 visits per 1,000 population was based upon maintaining 2009/10's throughput of 1.63 million recorded visits to our Leisure Facilities. Year 2010/11 is + **1.87%** up on 2009/10.



SITE	2009/10	2010/11	% age + / -
Deeside	560,131	570,004	+ 1.76%
Flint Pavilion	219,223	263,907	+ 20.38%
Holywell	232,482	227,143	- 2.30%
Mold	206,464	224,231	+ 8.61%
Buckley	190,396	170,218	- 10.60%
CQ Pool	127,327	106,367	- 16.46%
CQ Sports Centre	40,411	40,937	+ 1.30%
Hope	34,873	37,526	+ 7.61%
Saltney	18,904	20,361	+ 7.71%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,630,211</b>	<b>1,660,694</b>	<b>+ 1.87%</b>

On 30 September 2010, www.dataunitwales.gov.uk published the National Performance Indicator score (LCS/002) for the 22 Unitary Authorities in Wales for Year 2009/10. Flintshire is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the six Metropolitan Authorities and 5<sup>th</sup> in Wales overall.

## 2. Active Young People (AYP) Programme

### PESS

During 2010/11, significant work has been completed with the Foundation Phase support officers and on the creation of mentors for the programme.

PESS funding, in its current format, ends on 30 June 2011. Post-June a new, yet to be determined structure will be implemented across the North Wales region. The future delivery of the PESS Programme within Flintshire is thus uncertain.

### 5x60

The programme continues to exceed targets and to embed itself alongside the school extra-curricular programme. There continues to be a focus on girls, Key Stage 4 and the traditional non-participant.

	2008/09 (Academic Year)	2009/10 (Academic Year)
Total number of attendances at all 5x60 sessions	52,298	64,817
Total number of names on a register for any activity for Key Stage 3 & 4	9,769	15,769
Individual participants as % of current 5x60 schools population	48.13%	60.92%
% individual participants attending 5 times or more	33.83%	42.26%
% individual participants attending 20 times or more	8.51%	11.32%
% individual participants attending 30 times or more	3.58%	5.79%
Gender split of females in 5x60	4,479	7,030
Leadership opportunities	38.31%	28.12%
No. of SEN Participants	715	1,243



### **Dragon Sport**

Dragon Sport has continued to focus on girls' participation with the launch of the girls' football festival and the continuation of girls' cricket. Work is ongoing with local clubs to ensure that there are exit routes from school to club. The greatest success has been the holiday camps which have developed in every main leisure centre over the past two years. The biggest challenge continues to be golf and the lack of opportunity in school and from school to club. The programme continues to exceed targets.

	<b>2008/09 (Academic Year)</b>	<b>2009/10 (Academic Year)</b>
Total Number of Names on a Register for any activity for DS	10,583	11,107
Gender Split (females)	4,415	4,372
Dragon Sport Clubs Total (in school & in community)	316	327
Total AOTTS & Teachers & Young Leaders 14-18	228	242



### **3. WAG Free Swimming Initiative**

On 6 April 2011, www.dataunitwales.gov.uk published recorded attendance figures for free public swims and free structured activities for people aged 16 years & under during 2010/11. These figures incorporate all school holidays up to & including Christmas 2010.

To date, Flintshire has had more people aged 16 years and under attending free structured activities than any other Authority in Wales. Indeed, structured activities has accounted for 78.16% of Flintshire's 2010/11 free swimming programme.

On 6 April 2011, www.dataunitwales.gov.uk published recorded attendance figures for free public swims and free structured activities for people aged 60 years & over during 2010/11, up to & including January 2011. The figures show that at 26,943 recorded visits to date, Flintshire has the second highest total in North Wales and the tenth highest total across Wales.



### **4. actif express, County Hall**

During Quarter 4, there were 303 recorded visits to the Physical Activity Room. FCC employees participated in the following activities: Ab Attack, Zumba, Pilates & Circuit. The Physical Activity Room operated at 56.53% capacity. The table below displays the % operating capacity during 2010/11:

<b>QUARTER 1</b>	<b>QUARTER 2</b>	<b>QUARTER 3</b>	<b>QUARTER 4</b>
54.98%	55.50%	56.15%	56.53%



### **Risks (SARC / Operational)**

SARC Q4 2010/11: CD10: Leisure - Future Provision:  
**Overall RAG status for Leisure Services for Year End 2010/11 is AMBER; LOW / GREEN PREDICTIVE (June 2011).**



- The long term viability and sustainability of the Play Unit's current service provision is at risk, both in terms of fixed play equipment and community play work. The

annual repair and maintenance budget for play areas is insufficient for the long term sustainability of 178 sites (including fixed play & wheeled play areas and multi-use games areas); the possible ending of WAG *Cymorth* funding in March 2012 (next year 2011/12 will be a transition year) with no current indication of the level of any future funding will have severe implications regarding the delivery of community play work (e.g. summer play schemes) from 2012/13.

- The long term future of the *Kick-Start* Exercise Referral Programme is at risk post-March 2012 pending the outcome of a review by the Minister for Health & Social Services. WAG currently funds three Exercise Professional posts (100%) and an Exercise Referral Co-ordinator post (50%).
- Four Development Officer posts - Physical Activity Activator, Wheeled Sports, Basketball and Outdoor Activity - are at risk post-June 2011 due to the end of current funding schemes.



**Actions and Progress (Key Actions in Leisure Strategy)**

**1. Progress in relation to the four-year Partnering Agreement with Alliance Leisure Services**

***Deeside Leisure Centre***

On 15 February 2011, Executive endorsed a third phase of improvements to Deeside Leisure Centre, which comprises, principally, the re-development of the current indoor arena (the original ice rink) into the first indoor Extreme Sports Zone in Wales. The works also include refurbishment of the current main entrance Reception area. It is hoped that the new Extreme Sports Zone will open in January 2012.

***Flint Pavilion Leisure Centre***

On 15 March 2011, Executive endorsed the re-development proposals for Flint Pavilion, with the focus on indoor bowling provision. Assuming that the re-development works commence in Autumn 2011, then it is anticipated that completion of the contract can be achieved by Summer 2012.

During 2010/11, the County Council approved four separate phased projects (Executive 1 June 2010, 14 December 2010, 15 February 2011 & 15 March 2011) which were/are subject to consideration for formal contract commitment on the basis of affordability and sustainability.



**2. Progress in relation to the Leisure Services' Action Plan**

- Cafes at Holywell and Mold Leisure Centres ceased trading on 31 March 2011.
- Crèche at Flint Pavilion closed on 31 March 2011.
- Reduction in the number of Duty Officers (currently from 13 to 10).
- Swimming Development Officer post deleted with effect from 21 April 2011.
- *Swim Flintshire* Elite Performance Squad to continue.
- *Dry Only Dual Use Sports Centres at Connah's Quay, Hope and Saltney* Discussions with the three High School Governing Bodies are ongoing with a view

to finalising Service Level Agreements, based upon a lone worker operation and the inclusion of cleaning duties within the Attendant role (commencing May 2011).

The Leisure Services' Action Plan, first submitted to the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 14 October 2010, included a proposal to cease the current staffed catering arrangements at Flint Pavilion and to introduce the wider use of vending machines. Year end figures reveal that the café at Flint Pavilion has produced a profit of £11,947 in 2010/11; this represents a significant improvement on the £3,651 loss recorded in 2009/10.



### **3. *Develop and implement Flintshire's Play Strategy***

- a) The formal consultation period for the draft Play Strategy 2011-14 ended on 28 February 2011. The public consultation produced 22 responses, largely in support of the document. The final bilingual version of the Play Strategy will be available early in Quarter 1 2011/12 and subsequently submitted to Executive for endorsement.
- b) For the three-year period 2008-11, *Cymorth* funding supported two Play Unit Projects: Play Development and Play for Children with Disabilities. In March 2011, the Children & Young People's Partnership confirmed that funding will continue during 2011/12, at the same level as before, with the twelve-month period representing a transition year from the existing *Cymorth* programme to *Families First*.



### **4. *Rolling programme of improvement for fixed equipment play areas to be upgraded and refurbished across the County (Year-on-Year)***

The improvement scheme for children's play areas based upon a match-funding agreement between the County Council and Town & Community Councils has resulted in the County Council contributing £55k in 2010/11 (with a further sum of £6k retained for the ongoing maintenance requirements of the new works). The full allocation for 2010/11 was committed to seven play areas.

On 14 December 2010, Executive endorsed match-funding proposals for 2011/12, thereby committing the full allocation of £55k to ten play areas (again, with a further sum of £6k retained for ongoing maintenance).

During Quarter 4, the County Council allocated a further £38½k for play area equipment with an additional £11½k being retained for ongoing maintenance in 2011/12. This has enabled all 18 expressions of interest received from Town & Community Councils for 2011/12 to be met, resulting in £187k investment in new play equipment across the County in the next financial year.



## **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

### **LIBRARIES, CULTURE & HERITAGE (LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE)**

**REPORT AUTHOR: HEAD OF CULTURE & LEISURE**

**REPORT DATE: APRIL 2011**

**REPORT PERIOD: QUARTER 4 – JANUARY - MARCH 2011**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This performance report is based on the services and functions for which each Head of Service is responsible for. The report is produced on a quarterly basis; it is provided to Executive members for review and assurance and is available to Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of their Forward Work Programmes.

The report provides a Managerial Assessment as an overview of the key messages within the report and then provides evidence and data to inform that assessment from the following sources:

- Improvement Targets
- Improvement Agreement
- Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges
- Internal and external regulatory reports
- Customer satisfaction and feedback
- Awards and accreditations
- Resource Management (HR, ICT, Finance, Assets)

A Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status is provided as a 'guide' to the performance of particular issues where this can be evidenced.






#### **RAG STATUS KEY**

RED equates to a position or forecast position of under-performance, downward trend, non-achievement of target, non-achievement of action milestones.

AMBER equates to a mid position where improvement may have been made (i.e. improved trend) but the target for the year is unlikely to be reached, or where action milestones have been deferred or narrowly missed.

GREEN equates to a position or forecast position of positive trend on performance, meeting target and achieving action milestones.



<b>MANAGERIAL ASSESSMENT</b>	
<p>The Libraries, Culture and Heritage division of the Directorate delivers the following services: Public Libraries, North East Wales Schools Library Service, Museums, Archives, Records Management and Arts, Culture and Events.</p> <p>This is the last Quarterly Performance Report for Libraries, Culture and Heritage; following the creation of the Culture and Leisure Division future reports will encompass the work of the new Division.</p>	
<b>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Customer Satisfaction</b>	
<p>The Welsh Public Library Standards require services to establish and report on the % of library users (adults and children under 16) who are satisfied or very satisfied with the library service provided. This has to be done once every 3 years. A survey of adult users was conducted in October 2009 and the result was that 96% said that they were satisfied or very satisfied; the result for the 2007 consultation was also 96%. The most recent survey of children was conducted in 2008; the result was that 87% said they were satisfied or very satisfied. The most recent survey of children was conducted in February and March 2011, the results will be reported to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.</p>	
<b>Performance (National &amp; Local PI's)</b>	
<p><b>Welsh Public Library Standards</b> The Council's report on its performance for the 2010/11 round of the Welsh Public Library Standards is in preparation for submission to WAG (CyMAL). The full report on the Council's performance for the 2009/10 round was presented to the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 October 2010.</p> <p><b>Archive Service</b> The Service achieved an increase of 18% in users between 2009/10 and 2010/11.</p>	
<b>Risks (SARC / Operational)</b>	
<p><b>SARC CD 11 Community Facilities Stock – condition of ageing libraries.</b> Refurbishment of Connah's Quay Library with grant funding of £300,000 from WAG (CyMAL) and match-funding from capital programme was completed in March 2010. A further bid has been submitted to the 2011/12 funding round for the refurbishment of another library. This activity addresses risks 1 and 2: maintenance of ageing assets and backlog of repairs.</p>	
<b>Resource Management (Finance / People / ICT / Buildings)</b>	
No budget concerns to report at end of final quarter.	
	
<b>Priorities and Planning (Legislative / Inspections / Budgets / Improvements / Sustainability)</b>	
<p><b>Improvements:</b> The Library Service has completed the upgrade of the library management system which it operates jointly with Denbighshire County Council. The service now has an improved presence on the Council's website which it is anticipated will attract increased virtual access to library service resources and facilities. Virtual visits increased by 5% between 2009/10 and 2010/11.</p> <p><b>Budgets:</b> At the meeting of the Executive on 14 December 2010, the Head of Finance, in the Revenue Budget Monitoring Report, reported on a series of management actions to reduce the projected in-year overspend. These include the reduction to the Library Service book budget of £70,000 for 2010/11.</p>	

## Public Library performance against national targets

### Attendance Management Strategy - Review of Performance

Service Area	Quarter 4 2010 - 2011	Quarter 4 2009 - 2010	Quarter 3 2010 - 2011	Trend and commentary
<b>Libraries, Culture and Heritage</b>	2.26 Average days absence per FTE  3.97% working time lost	2.96 Average Working days absence per FTE  5.15% working time lost	3.3 Average working days absence per FTE  5.79% working time lost	Decrease of just over 1% absence rate from Quarter 3. Decrease of 0.7% absence rate from same quarter last year. <b>Days lost per FTE for full year is 9.85, which is below FCC target for 2010/11 which is 10.</b> Decrease in working time lost of 1.8% compared with Quarter 3 and decrease of 1.2% compared with same quarter last year.

### Archive Service local performance indicators: real and virtual visits and remote enquiries (email and post)

Quarter	2009/10	2010/11
April to June	1,657	2,192
July to September	2,042	2,822
October to Dec.	1,707	1,967
January to March	2,759	2,659
<b>total</b>	<b>8,165</b>	<b>9,640</b>

**Performance improvement targets 2010/11 Outturn**

<b>Ref.</b>	<b>Short Description</b>	<b>2009-10 Outturn</b>	<b>2010-11 Outturn</b>	<b>2010-11 Target</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Comment</b>
LCL/001	The number of people using Public Library Services during the year per 1,000 population	5648.35 visits	6252 visits	5630 visits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote newly refurbished Connah's Quay Library and Learning Centre to local community, schools and learning providers.</li> <li>2. Improve library web pages, virtual resources and online catalogue</li> <li>3. Increase capacity for online learning activities</li> </ol>	Physical visits increased by 10%, virtual visits increased by 5%.
LCL/002b	The percentage of available computer hours in use	39.07%	35.01%	42.09%	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roll out improved computer booking system to all libraries.</li> <li>2. Increase capacity for online learning activities in libraries</li> </ol>	This is an actual figure, generated by MyPC booking system. Previous year's figures provided by sampling.
LCL/004	The number of library materials issued, during the year, per 1,000 population.	5281.59	5276	5355	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extend holdings of alternative formats to more libraries.</li> <li>2. Develop collections of emerging formats such as audio books on MP3 player.</li> </ol>	A slight decrease on 09/10 figures reflects 17% saving made from bookfund and low number of items added to stock in last 6 months of 10/11 due to in-year savings.



## **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

### **SCHOOLS SERVICES (LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE)**

**REPORT AUTHOR: ELWYN DAVIES**

**REPORT DATE: MAY 2011**

**REPORT PERIOD: YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2011**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This performance report is based on the services and functions for which each Head of Service is responsible for. The report will be produced on a quarterly basis and provided to Executive members for review and assurance and available for Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of their Forward Work Programmes.

The report provides a Managerial Assessment as an overview of the key messages within the report and then provides evidence and data to inform that assessment from the following sources:

- Improvement Targets
- Outcome Agreement
- Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges
- Internal and external regulatory reports
- Customer satisfaction and feedback
- Awards and accreditations
- Resource Management (HR, ICT, Finance, Assets)

A Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status is provided as a 'guide' to the performance of particular issues where this can be evidenced.

#### **RAG STATUS KEY**

RED equates to a position or forecast position of under-performance, downward trend, non-achievement of target, non-achievement of action milestones.

AMBER equates to a mid position where improvement may have been made (i.e. improved trend) but the target for the year is unlikely to be reached, or where action milestones have been deferred or narrowly missed.

GREEN equates to a position or forecast position of positive trend on performance, meeting target and achieving action milestones.



## **MANAGERIAL ASSESSMENT**

The Schools Services aims to work with schools; to influence them through effective consultation, partnership, support, challenge and leadership through the schools capacity to sustain improvement. In supporting school improvement the service views the following objectives as key elements of the process.

- provide leadership, share value, and reinforce a common language of school improvement;
- continue to raise standards both in school performance and LEA services;
- build partnerships, trust and capacity;
- generate, disseminate and use performance data;
- enhance schools' capacity and self review and self improvement;
- monitor, challenge, review, support and intervene in inverse proportion to success and to
- promote and disseminate good practice.

All Schools Services Improvement Targets are reported annually and as they are based on the academic year do not fall succinctly with the Q1 performance reporting at this time of year.

The main issues for the service for the last quarter have been:

## **CURRICULUM AND TEACHING**

### **Foundation Phase (FP)**

#### Training & Development

Training continues to develop at pace and has become increasingly tailored to specifically identified needs. As all national modules have now been delivered there is greater flexibility in shaping training to meet local priorities. The main areas of training focus during the Spring Term have been a recall of all Early Years teachers and Nursery Nurses to improve assessment skills ie the ongoing development of Individual Learning Journeys, tracking pupil progress, standardisation of work and an introduction to the new national baseline assessment in order to underpin high standards.

Another priority area for training has been transition from Foundation Phase into Key Stage 2. A teacher from Year 2 and Year 3 from each school has been trained in appropriate strategies for promoting high quality learning in these year groups and how to develop effective systems for the transition of pupils. (The first cohort of pupils which has been solely under the Foundation Phase framework to transfer into Key Stage 2 will be in September 2012). Other regular training sessions have continued for classroom assistants, headteachers, foundation phase managers and the non-maintained sector.

The Foundation Phase Team supported a Flintshire school (Cornist Park) to deliver a number of workshops in the National Foundation Phase Conference which were very positively received by practitioners across the North Wales region.

In response to the downward trend in the KS1 data, all schools have received a full day's training on how to standardise and moderate work to support robust judgements at the end of KS1 in preparation for the statutory reporting in June 2011. From the evidence within pupil portfolios shared in the training, compared to evidence seen on a similar event last year, we are expecting the KS1 outcomes to show an improvement this year and again in 2012.

#### Monitoring Standards and Raising Achievement

The Foundation Phase team has been an integral part of the whole school monitoring process undertaken by the Primary School Improvement Team and has contributed to overall judgements on standards and provided effective follow up support where needed.

The Foundation Phase also provides pre-inspection monitoring in schools. This has proven to be very effective and recent inspection reports are reporting favourably on outcomes in the Foundation Phase.

#### Early Entitlement

The local authority has been able to meet demand for the part time places for three year olds this term and all groups are receiving, as an absolute minimum, the 10% teacher input time that is statutorily required. ESTYN have undertaken several inspections in Flintshire in the non-maintained sector during the spring term and only one group has been identified as needing local authority monitoring which will be undertaken by the Advisory Teacher for the group and the Senior Learning Adviser/Manager of Early Entitlement.

#### Learning Environments

The Capital Grant for Foundation Phase projects has been allocated to 10 schools for improvements to the outdoor learning environment to support the delivery of the new curriculum. Projects mostly involve providing fencing, new play surfaces, access doors and canopies for shade/shelter.

#### Wider Communication

With the phased rollout of Foundation Phase heading towards its final year with Year 2 pupils coming on board from September 2011, the shift is now on monitoring standards and outcomes for pupils. The Foundation Phase Development Group, which performed a very useful role in the early stages of implementation in drawing together local authority officers across different departments eg staffing, finance, capital projects to plan and deliver the major changes required, has come to its natural conclusion. It has been replaced by the Foundation Phase Quality Assurance Group which has the key role of developing the priorities for Foundation Phase within the Primary Strategy and for ensuring that educational standards for pupils are improved by the time they are assessed at age 7.

The downward trend in the KS1 data over the last three years is disappointing and the reasons for this have been analysed by local authority officers and headteachers. However, emerging evidence from recent training events, as detailed above, is indicating that this is now potentially being reversed and the data should start to improve.

## **Key Stage 2**

Officers from the Foundation Phase and KS2 are working with a small group of schools that have cross phase classes (i.e. pupils from Foundation Phase and KS2 in the same class) developing a FP/KS2 cross-phase planning tool. Schools have adapted the KS2 curriculum model and the implementation of this on standards is being monitored.

The KS 2 Exemplar Curriculum has been completed this March with the addition of the final theme on Fairgrounds. The authority have agreed to share the resource with Conwy and the themes are presently being translated into Welsh.

The curriculum mapping exercise i.e. mapping the subjects range and skills across the curriculum is underway.

## **More Able and Talented (MAT)**

The MAT Co-ordinators Spring Conference was held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011. .

The main presentation was on 'Mindset'; a simple, but revolutionary idea discovered by world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck in decades of research on motivation, achievement and success. The four afternoon workshops (presented by members of the MAT Focus Group) addressed many of the issues most commonly faced by MAT coordinators and explored practical strategies for developing the role. These were planned in response to the Autumn Flintshire MAT survey. The feedback from the event was, once again, 100% positive.

A teacher presented the outcomes of the pilot enrichment programme consisting of schools in Connahs Quay, John Summers and Castell Alun consortiums; these have been hosting MAT workshops. A model on how to run an Enrichment Programme was proposed with the intention of extending the programme across all other consortiums.

The re-engineered MAT Moodle site was also demonstrated during the conference and delegates commented that it was an excellent resource.

The NE Wales Regional MAT Network met in Wrexham in February and the LA Officer for MAT attended the NACE Cymru Working Group in March. NACE has secured a small grant from WAG for the next academic year.

## **English**

### Catch-up

30 teaching assistants have received full training and 28 teachers have received co-ordinators training. 75 teaching assistants have also received 'Top-up' training.

Programme delivery began in January and February. Within the 25 target schools Better Schools Funding grant has provided the intervention programme for 524 Key Stage 2 children; 281 boys and 243 girls. Data will be collected in the summer term to evaluate the impact of the programme.

Day 2 and 3 of the Literacy training for Year 3 teachers has been provided; 82 teachers have been trained and all completed inter-sessional tasks and contributed very effectively to sharing of effective practice. Teachers have reported a positive impact on learner outcomes, particularly in the use of spelling logs.

Three more schools have achieved the Basic Skills Quality Standard for their work in identifying, supporting, monitoring and tracking progress of learners with insecure basic skills.

### Read, Write, Inc.

The local authority has invested heavily, both in training, and providing resources to support the development of children's basic literacy skills using the Read,Write,Inc. Phonics scheme. Flintshire has successfully trained over twelve schools and by September 2011 another ten will have received training and resources. The training is rigorous and all staff attend the training, including support staff and the headteacher.

The use of the programme is a whole school approach with children being taught to read, write and spell in small homogenous groups. Schools that have already implemented the programme have seen significant improvements in a short space of time. The impact of the programme will be monitored and evaluated by the LA Literacy Officer and it is anticipated that the programme will impact positively on future end of key stage data.

### Raising boys achievement in literacy

A Professional Learning Community of ten targeted Y5 and 6 teachers from 7 schools have been given training in strategies to develop boys literacy. All involved report this has had a very positive impact with one child achieving a Level 6. Again this programme will be fully evaluated in the summer term. Teachers are coming together 24th May to share outcomes of the action research and to discuss next steps. As a requirement of the funding they will produce case studies of effective practice and the impact on learners. This work will be placed on the Moodle website and shared with other schools.

Previous end of Key Stage 1 data highlighted a difference in attainment in boys reading and writing. As a local authority we are addressing this through training. Gary Wilson has written several books and produced numerous case studies addressing the issue of raising the achievement of boys. In the Spring Term Gary presented Flintshire schools with numerous ideas that could be taken back to the classroom to raise the achievement of boys. The feedback from the day was very positive and the training will be repeated in October.

LEA monitoring and support visits have continued to take place in targeted schools on Stage 3 and Stage 4, pre and post inspection and in schools that identify literacy as a key priority.

### **Mathematics**

The LA Officer has evaluated the impact of maths RM catch up initiatives and as a result, a further intervention pack has been produced for Year 4 pupils which will be issued to schools in May along with the necessary training.

In order to further raise standards in maths and improve the skills of teachers, 18 schools have been targeted for support. Training took place in January where interim tasks were set, with follow up two weeks later with teachers showing evidence and feeding back on tasks undertaken in schools. Support this year is targeted at Year 1/2 and Year 3/4 teachers.

132 Year 1/2 teachers attended KS1 recall on assessment; this action was in response to the downward trend in the end of KS1 data. Schools were grouped in clusters and were assigned the task of moderating pupil profiles from each school. There is now evidence of Level 3 pupils and improvement on the last academic year's data.

Challenges and problem solving shared in September meetings were evidenced in pupils' profiles during these sessions.

A Spring maths co-ordinators meeting was held in April. 54 teachers attended a half day session. The focus was on assessment and levelling at KS2 uncluding Using and Applying in maths, the pilot of external moderation, thinking card activities, numeracy as a key skill and how to deliver a grade one lesson in mathematics.

LEA monitoring and support visits have continued to take place in targeted schools on Stage 3 and Stage 4 and pre and post inspection.

Stage 3 schools have also received a third session on self evaluation and development plans. Each school is receiving a follow up visit to ensure progress has been made and areas identified for improvement have been addressed. Schools were also invited to join a session focusing on improving the profile of maths generally within their schools with a particular emphasis on investigations and problem solving.

Monitoring visits include monitoring the implementation of the revised National Curriculum orders and teacher assessment arrangements. The LA continues to work with schools on strengthening standardisation and moderation. This has been the focus of both co-ordinator meetings and the KS1 recall session in April. Guidance materials from the KS2/3 external moderation exercise have been adapted and issued to both KS1 and KS2. These materials will ensure that pupil profiles have sufficient evidence in order that a best fit level may be awarded at the end of the key stage.

Ongoing support has also been given to consortiums in preparing pupil profiles in preparation for external moderation. Guidance materials have also been issued during cluster moderation exercises.

### **Science**

The Science adviser assisted the Foundation Phase advisory teachers in delivering two days' of INSET on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. (This was a follow-up from the training delivered in September 2010, where Year 2 teachers were given guidance on extending and challenging pupils at the end of Key Stage 1 to achieve level 3 outcomes in tasks.) Teachers brought and shared a variety of samples of pupils' work from Year 2 and analysed the tasks for level characteristics according to National Curriculum level descriptors.

A significant improvement has been noted in the quality and depth of challenges/tasks offered to pupils. Feedback from the sessions indicated that teachers are now generally more confident in recognising level 3 standards in pupils' work, both written and presented via other modes of communication. Teachers are also more aware of the significance of cross-curricular tasks when seeking evidence for science enquiry skills.

All schools have now taken delivery of their LogBox datalogger and have received full instructions on its operation and application in KS1 and KS2 to support the delivery of ICT in science. This is already having a very positive impact on the delivery of science enquiry skills and, in particular, on the integration of ICT skills in science.

A range of primary science INSET training courses were offered during March 2011 to ensure teachers develop a common understanding of national Curriculum level descriptors when applied to end-of-key-stage moderation of pupils' work, also monitoring the effect of the changing pedagogy in the Foundation Phase on standards of science enquiry skills.

49 Flintshire teachers attended these courses covering the following areas:

- Assessing Primary Science – 17 teachers attended
- Teaching Science Enquiry in Year 1 and 2 – 16 teachers attended
- Teaching Science Enquiry in Key Stage 2 – 16 teachers attended.

Further to these central cross-authority training sessions, the LA Officer has delivered four half-day sessions to Flintshire science coordinators. One of the principal agenda items during these meetings was raising awareness of the statutory requirement to standardise and moderate pupils' work at the end of Key Stage 2; guidance, exemplars and advice were issued to schools.

### **Welsh**

LEA monitoring and support visits have continued to take place in targeted schools on Stage 3 and Stage 4 and individually identified schools pre- and post-inspection. A meeting was held in February for teachers to ensure greater consistency in teacher assessment.

'Geriau Bach' training has been delivered to develop the skills of Early Years practitioners. The Athrawon Bro continue to target schools and individual teachers for support and training. The CIMCAI Course is on-going and officers are looking at alternative training courses for teachers, including the Flintshire Accredited Course.

### **ICT**

The self evaluation course continues to be offered every term to schools and follow up visits organised where requested. Documentation has been further updated to take account of the revised inspection framework and the subsequent advice to inspectors regarding the inspection of ICT as a skill across the curriculum. All documents are available to all schools on the LA Intranet

Target for 2010 -2011: 20% of primary school ICT Coordinators to attend: Achieved

There has been additional refinement of support materials for the Becta Self-Review due to the updated on-line matrix. In-school support has been available to identified schools. More effective assessment of ICT by end of KS2 has been on-going as part of school support and the ICT monitoring programme.

Provision and updating of materials for teachers has been on-going providing skills progression (skills ladders), additional materials for the Pupil Self Assessment pack and matrices for recording ICT as a skill across the curriculum. Documents are available to all schools on the LA Intranet.

An INSET programme has been offered every term and INSET also offered in schools and on training days to reflect school needs. Course evaluation sheets continue to help to inform future INSET. Support for Primary Schools has been on-going in response to the ICT monitoring programme, requests from schools and in response to the LA monitoring programme.

An interim report has been sent to WAG regarding the OWLS Project (Wales Laptops for Schools pilot) identifying a positive impact on classroom practice, the development of pupils ICT skills in a range of contexts including digital video and the development of pupils' literacy skills.

**Leadership and Improvement and Accountability**

PHIP INSET training for new and acting headteachers was held in the Spring Term. Evaluation of the day showed that 100% of those attended rated the training as very good. Further training is planned for May 2011.

Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher/Senior Manager Conferences were held in the Spring Term. A key focus for leaders and managers has been on challenging current self-evaluation and school improvement practice, data analysis and sharing of good practice across the County. At the Deputy Conference 91% of the evaluation forms judged the conference to be very good and 9% as good. At the Headteacher Conference 62% judged the conference to be very good and 38% as good.

**Intervention and Support**

Primary Link Officers and Subject Officers have carried out 2 Day Reviews of targeted schools as part of the LA Monitoring, Challenge and Support Policy. Termly review meetings are on-going with the Chairs of Governors and headteachers of schools causing concern.

Four primary schools and the primary special school have been inspected by Estyn over the Spring Term. All primary schools received Good for KQs 1, 2 and 3 with current performance and prospects rated as Good. We are awaiting the Estyn Report for Ysgol Pen Coch.

**Working with Others**

Training for teachers to enable them to deliver entrepreneurship activities was delivered in May. Finance education and entrepreneurship will be agenda items at the PSE Forum for Primary Schools in October.

Teachers from 14 schools attended the Personal and Social Education training on January 20<sup>th</sup> led by Gaynor Murphy. On the follow-up day, February 14<sup>th</sup> each teacher gave a presentation on the work they had carried out with pupils in their schools. Evaluations of the training were all very positive and we have the opportunity to do further training for another group of schools in the summer term.




<b>Performance</b>	
Please refer to Appendix A.	

<b>Risks</b>	
Please refer to the Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges document.	

<b>Internal/External Regulatory Reports</b>	
None.	

<b>Customer Satisfaction and Feedback</b>	
None.	

<b>Resource Management</b>	
<p>Service Budget pressures continue to be experienced in the following area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out of County Placements</li> </ul>	

Ref.	Short Description	2008-09 Outturn	2009-10 Outturn	2010-11 Target	Actions	Due	Responsibility
EDU/002ai	The number of pupils (including those in local authority care) in any local authority maintained learning setting, who attain the age of 16 during the school year and leave full-time education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	20 pupils	7 pupils	14 pupils	<p>Review current range of accreditation status across Pupil Referral Unit portfolio.                      Identify appropriate qualifications to be delivered including key skills, work based learning.                      Develop the accreditation status of the portfolio Pupil Referral Units to facilitate the new range of qualifications.                      Identify and implement training programme for staff to deliver the new qualifications. (Please note that the target is dependent on the size and ability of the cohort).  <b>Progress</b> - <i>the PPRU Heads of Centre met on 16/02/11 to review the range of qualifications. Staff within one of the centres have accessed training on Essential Skills Wales and are looking to develop expertise within this area. We are planning 2 training events over the next half term to explore the possibility of introducing ESW and establishing a wider range of accreditation across the whole PPRU.</i></p>	April 2011 - Sept 2011	Head of School Services, Secondary Phase officer and EOTAS officer

## Improvement Target Action Plan

## Appendix A

EDU/002aii	The number of pupils in local authority care in any local authority maintained learning setting, who attain the age of 16 during the school year and leave full-time education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	1 pupil	0 pupils	2 pupils	Monitor the impact of the ONE database in ensuring accurate recording of the Looked After Children pupil population. Continue to evaluate the impact of RAISE funding on KS4 accreditation through annual report to WAG. <b>Progress</b> - A report is currently being compiled by the Learning Advisor for LAC (to go to scrutiny) on the attainment of LAC pupils - progress will be reviewed in light of this.	Sep-11	Learning Adviser for LAC
EDU/002bi	The percentage of all pupils (including those in local authority care) in any local authority maintained learning setting, who attain the age of 16 during the school year and leave full-time education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	1.04%	0.39%	0.90%	See comments for EDU/002ai above <b>Progress</b> - the PPRU Heads of Centre met on 16/02/11 to review the range of qualifications. Staff within one of the centres have accessed training on Essential Skills Wales(ESW) and are looking to develop expertise within this area. We are planning 2 training events over the next half term to explore the possibility of introducing ESW and establishing a wider range of accreditation across the whole PPRU.	April 2011 - Sept 2011	Head of School Services, Secondary Phase officer and EOTAS officer.
EDU/002bii	The percentage of pupils in local authority care in any local authority maintained learning setting, who attain the age of 16 during the school year and leave full-time education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification	27.27%	0%	15%	See comments for EDU/002ai above <b>Progress</b> - A report is currently being compiled by the Learning Advisor for LAC (to go to scrutiny) on the attainment of LAC pupils - progress will be reviewed in light of this.	Sep-11	Learning Adviser for LAC

**Improvement Target Action Plan**

**Appendix A**

EDU/009a	The average number of school days that permanently excluded pupils did not receive an offer of full time appropriate education provision during the year	7.33 School days	3.33 School days	5 School days	<p>Ratify Managed Moves Protocol with Headteachers in Spring Term and implement. Monitor the impact of the Managed Moves Protocol on decreasing the number of school days.</p> <p><b>Progress - Protocol ratified and is being applied by headteachers.</b></p>	Feb 2011 July 2011	Head of Schools Services supported by Principal Learning Advisor Inclusion.
EDU/009b	The average number of school days that permanently excluded pupils did not receive an offer of part time appropriate education provision during the year	2.83 School days	15 School days	4 School days	<p>Formalise the process of emergency meetings between Manager of Inclusion Welfare Service and Senior Learning Advisor (EOTAS) in the event of permanent exclusion to enable offer of part time education to be made. After 15 working days for parents to lodge an appeal against exclusion, school to continue providing work. Thereafter home tuition until alternative provision.</p> <p><b>Progress – procedures are in place as per WAG Guidance (47/2006).</b></p>	Mar-11	Head of Schools Services
EDU/011	The average external qualifications point score for 16 year olds, in learning settings maintained by the local authority	347.81 points	371.26 points	367 points	<p>Support for curriculum development through the 14-19 network and annual network development plan so that all schools meet the requirements of the learning and skills measure.</p> <p><b>Progress – Further progress has been made following achievement of target for September, 2009. All schools exceeded the target of 26 courses for September, 2010. All schools achieved the 2011 target of offering 28 courses and 11 schools achieved the 2012 target of 30 or more courses.</b></p> <p>Supporting collaborative working for co-ordinating and early operation of the Welsh Bacallaureate. See also comments under EDU/002ai above.</p> <p><b>Progress – The number of learners, in September 2010, increased at KS4 through participation of 8 High</b></p>	By Sept 2011	Principal Learning Adviser Secondary Phase

Improvement Target Action Plan

Appendix A

					<p><b>Schools in the WBQ in year 10 compared to just one school (Elfed High School) in 2009/10.</b></p> <p><b>At Post 16, Hawarden High School and the Alun School had learners completing the WBQ in 2010. In 2011 Post 16 learners from 8 schools will complete the advanced WBQ.</b></p> <p><b>If applications are successful then all schools will be involved in WBQ work in 2011.</b></p>		
EDU/015a	The percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks, including exceptions	69.23%	96.90%	94%	<p>Implement timeline alert for all relevant professionals involved in the statementing process.</p> <p>Educational Psychologists to develop electronic sending and signing of reports.</p> <p>Continue monitoring all aspects of the statementing process to ensure timelines continue to be met, Report to Scrutiny June 2011.</p> <p><b>Progress- Principal Educational Psychologist monitoring closely the number of exceptions and keeping a regular check on which are at risk of over-running the 6 week deadline.</b></p>	From Jan 2011	Principal Learning Adviser for Inclusion and Head of Educational Psychology Service
EDU/015b	The percentage of final statements of special education need issued within 26 weeks, excluding exceptions	90%	96.92%	98%	<p>See comments for EDU/015a above</p> <p><b>Progress - Monthly check in place of which (a) Educational Psychologist advice has been late and (b) discussing with colleagues ways of ensuring that advice is sent in on time.</b></p>		Principal Learning Adviser for Inclusion and Head of Educational Psychology Service

## Improvement Target Action Plan

## Appendix A

<p>SCC/002</p>	<p>The percentage of children looked after at 31st March who have experienced one or more changes of school, during a period or periods of being looked after, which were not due to transitional arrangements, in the 12 months to 31 March</p>	<p>16.07%</p>	<p>17.54%</p>	<p>15%</p>	<p>Learning Advisor for LAC to work closely with colleagues in Social Services for children in minimising the need to change by schools due to placement moves and to provide assistance to carers on finding high achieving schools if distance is a factor in a change of school. (It should be noted that the shortage of foster carers is a driving force for change of schools other than at transition).</p> <p><b>Progress</b> - Links are in place between LLL and SS to facilitate discussion regarding placements and the maintenance of these. Any changes not due to transition are reviewed to inform future practice.</p>	<p>By Sept 2011</p>	<p>Learning Adviser for LAC</p>
<p>SCC/044b Replacing SCC/023b</p>	<p>The average number of days spent out of school on fixed-term exclusions for children looked after who were excluded during the previous academic year</p>	<p>New for 2010/11</p>	<p>5.6 days</p>	<p>4 days</p>	<p>Review joint working arrangements with other agencies / Inclusion Services to ensure a range of appropriate support / provision is available.</p> <p><b>Progress</b> - Discussions have taken place with key Inclusion services, e.g. Inclusion Welfare, EOTAs and Behaviour support.</p>	<p>Review to be complete by March 2011</p>	<p>Learning Adviser for LAC</p>

## **QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

### **DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCES (LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE)**

REPORT AUTHOR: **HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCES**  
REPORT DATE: **MAY 2011**  
REPORT PERIOD: **QUARTER 4 – 31 MARCH 2011**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This performance report is based on the services and functions for which each Head of Service is responsible for. The report will be produced on a quarterly basis and provided to Executive members for review and assurance and available for Overview and Scrutiny Committees as part of their Forward Work Programmes.

The report provides a Managerial Assessment as an overview of the key messages within the report and then provides evidence and data to inform that assessment from the following sources:

- Improvement Targets
- Improvement Agreement
- Strategic Assessment of Risks and Challenges
- Internal and external regulatory reports
- Customer satisfaction and feedback
- Awards and accreditations
- Resource Management (HR, ICT, Finance, Assets)

A Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status is provided as a 'guide' to the performance of particular issues where this can be evidenced.

#### **RAG STATUS KEY**

RED equates to a position or forecast position of under-performance, downward trend, non-achievement of target, non-achievement of action milestones.

AMBER equates to a mid position where improvement may have been made (i.e. improved trend) but the target for the year is unlikely to be reached, or where action milestones have been deferred or narrowly missed.

GREEN equates to a position or forecast position of positive trend on performance, meeting target and achieving action milestones.



## **MANAGERIAL ASSESSMENT**

Development and Resources covers the following services:

- Support – that provide support services to both the Directorate and to Schools.
- Community based – that provide services to the communities of Flintshire i.e. Youth and Community Services

Following review, a new Directorate Plan has been created that will assist Managers in the development of their Services Plans to ensure that they are meaningful, robust and based on priority areas led by:

- customer satisfaction;
- future planning requirements informed by new and/or changing legislation;
- improvement led by analysis of performance;
- risk assessment and analysis (Corporate and Operational);
- benchmarked performance (national and local where possible); and
- resource opportunities and constraints (finance, people, ICT & property).

Youth and Community Services have prepared a Youth Strategy document for the Executive, which has now been approved, the Service Delivery Plan detailing the restructure of the Service is scheduled to be submitted for approval for consultation.

Each Service within the Division has the following main areas of note:

- Access (Admissions & Transport) – undertaking consultation on admissions arrangements. Savings are being identified in relation to procurement of transport (e-tenders) and on a regional basis.
- Capital Projects & Planning – potential significant capacity issue for Service Managers due to the additional workload that the School Modernisation project implementation/21Century Schools submissions. R&M programme 2011/12 in consultation, as are consultations for Foundation Phase/Early Years development programme. Work on the new school at Connah's Quay is well advanced, and design work on the new school for Shotton is underway. Capital projects at Broughton, and Cilcain are ongoing and the programme of amalgamation of Infant and Junior schools now includes Broughton, Connah's Quay and Mynydd Isa.
- Financial Management – fully involved in the identification of pressures/savings and a review of school funding formula with a view of simplifying the methodology. Review of School Service Level Agreements, which will become operational in September.
- Facilities Services – A range of efficiencies are now being brought forward in line with the Flintshire Futures programme. Campus Manager reviewing accommodation and security issues, in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency. Phase one of the caretaking/security review is complete, and preparations for phase two including the strengthening of security is progressing.
- Staffing & Governance – advice and support for schools in relation to single status is taking precedence.
- Student Support, Grants and Benefits – decision by the Welsh Assembly that the student grant element will be centralised, but no date for this has been given. No change therefore is expected imminently.
- Youth and Community Services – Approved strategy document leading to the review of organisation design. Report will be re-submitted to LSG seeking approval for consultation.

The first part of the review of caretaking/security arrangements in the Facilities Service has been implemented. This has resulted in the agreed lone working arrangement for the night shift, increasing efficiency and effectiveness. A second phase is subject to discussion and development with the workforce.



A review of accommodation in County Hall is expected to have a positive effect on increasing occupancy and reducing stored materials/documentation. The Campus Manager will be working closely with colleagues from the Environment Directorate to affect the review. Work in Phase 1 of the building has commenced.

Further reviews of the Campus area are being carried out with a view of increasing efficiency and reducing costs.

The School Modernisation Strategy is now being implemented, and the programme of infant/junior amalgamations is progressing. Work has started on site for the new school at Connah's Quay, and will be completed by Summer 2012 in time for a transition from the existing Infant and Junior Schools to the new building. Following the granting of £4.5 million in the tranche 3 of the WAG School Building Improvement Grant (SBIG 3), design work is now being undertaken for a new primary school at Shotton, which is expected to be completed by December 2013.

Amalgamations have been approved for Infant and junior schools in Mynydd Isa and Broughton. Headteacher appointments have been made and the schools are progressing to primary school status from September 2011.

Other capital projects include the modifications to the building at Broughton and extensions at Cilcain Primary school.





Post-16 transformation is now a priority area for development, and will form a major workstream for the foreseeable future. Discussions with Post-16 providers are progressing, and a process for options appraisal has been formulated. A Strategic Outline Case SOC, developed in conjunction with providers has been submitted to WAG in accordance with the Treasury 5-Case Business model.








A Strategic Outline Programme has also been submitted to the Assembly, as part of the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century. This document lists the works that would be necessary to make Flintshire schools '21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools'. No announcement on the timing or level of funding is expected until the Autumn of 2011.






A number of documents have been developed and relevant data has been prepared for the purposes of the School Modernisation Strategy.

There are a number of elements/documents that contribute towards the implementation of Flintshire's School Modernisation Strategy. These are listed below including the progress made to date on each:

- Fit for Purpose Guidance now complete which includes accommodation learning environment and facilities.
- School Place Planning and methodology which sets out the demographic projections and expected demands for school places is being updated.
- The Primary and Secondary Strategies for School Improvement, which set out the key improvement actions and priorities for all services that contribute towards school improvement have been developed. Progress is monitored monthly, with whole plan reviews carried out annually.
- A capital funding bid to the Assembly for tranche III of SBIG transitional funding has been approved, and £4.5 million has been granted towards the cost of a new through Primary School in Shotton. Recent announcements have confirmed a delay in payment of the WAG contribution. This will delay the project for approximately 4 months. Additional monitoring of the ground conditions have been identified as a requirement of the planning process due to the proximity of the site to a disused tipping site. This may have an affect on the timing of the project.

<b>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Customer Satisfaction</b>	
<p>At the request of schools, Service Level Agreements (SLA's) have been re-drafted, and consultation came to an end at Easter. Responses are now being received about the new agreements from September.</p> <p>The buy-back of services from the local authority will be dependant on the level of satisfaction with the individual services.</p> <p>Further developments include increased cashless payment for school meals and feasibility of on-line payments.</p> <p>Additional delegating to school include ICT Services, Music Service, Outdoor Education and School Library Service.</p>	
<b>Performance (National &amp; Local PI's)</b>	
<p>Performance of the service will be indicated by levels of buy-back by schools.</p> <p>Reduction in repairs and maintenance backlog by new/refurbished school buildings.</p>	
<b>Risks (SARC / Operational)</b>	
<p>Despite significant increase in the repair and maintenance budget, a significant backlog will remain for the foreseeable future. Pressure on the Repair and Maintenance budget will increase with the reduction in spending due to the economic climate. A reduction by 10% as a result of Council savings of the relevant budget will reduce the pace of R&amp;M.</p> <p>The School Modernisation Strategy will assist in the process of reducing backlog in removing some older buildings and replacement with new. The process of replacement is dependant on Welsh Assembly Government grants from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme. No announcement on the timing or level of funding will be available until the Autumn of 2011.</p> <p>Movement from School Buildings Improvement Grant funding (SBIG) to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools funding will involve a phasing of funding. At present, there is no indication of when individual Authorities will receive capital funding. The Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) has been submitted to WAG for their consideration. There remains uncertainty on how the Comprehensive Spending Review will affect the overall capital available for the renewal/refurbishment of schools. Significant cuts in the Capital Funding in Wales are expected.</p>	
<b>Resource Management (Finance / People / ICT / Buildings)</b>	
<p>There is a continuing staff/resource pressure in the HR/Governance section due to the impact of unresolved Single Status issues in schools. Work is ongoing with the matching of jobs with a generic Job Descriptions. This is being coordinated by Job Evaluation staff</p> <p>Reviews of caretaking staff is ongoing for phase two of the project. Proposed arrangements for managing County Hall access and security are being implemented. Consultations with Unions have been ongoing, and agreed redundancies effected.</p> <p>Further developments with security arrangements are expected to be finalised with the second phase of change which will result in the 'lockdown' of county Hall in line with the practise in other public buildings.</p>	

<b>Priorities and Planning (Legislative / Inspections / Budgets / Improvements / Sustainability)</b>	
<p>Each service area has responded to the Estyn Action Plan following inspection in early 2009. The Estyn Inspection of 14-19 provision carried out January 2011 was positive with regard to the management of resources.</p> <p>Service pressures and any areas of saving are being identified on an ongoing basis as part of the budget monitoring and service planning processes.</p>	
<b>SUPPORTING INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Customer Satisfaction and Feedback</b>	
<p><u>School Funding Formula</u> A task group of Officers and Headteachers has been convened to review the Flintshire formula. Representation on the North Wales formula review group is also in place, and will assist in the coordination of any proposed changes.</p> <p><u>Building Maintenance Services</u> The increased repairs and maintenance budget put in place in the last two years has enabled the pace and scope of work to be increased, however, pressure on this budget due to the economic situation will delay some works. However, this is being partially re-balanced by more competitive quotations.</p> <p><u>Transparency of Asset Management Planning</u> With the completion of condition and suitability surveys of school buildings a more objective process of prioritisation is in place. Headteachers have been briefed on the methodology of prioritising works. Major R&amp;M projects are being efficiently prioritised according to professional survey.</p> <p><u>Traded Services</u> A sub-group of the Schools Budget Forum has reviewed Service Level Agreements with schools. These have been reviewed by the School's Budget Forum and sent to schools for consultation. An increase in the number of traded services (5) is expected to have a positive affect on the overall delegation % to schools</p>	      
<b>Performance (National &amp; Local PI's)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fitness for purpose guidance has been completed and a comprehensive condition survey will form part of the documentation used in conjunction with the approved School Modernisation Strategy.</li> </ul>	
<b>Risks (SARC / Operational)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress against Corporate Risk CD 20:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Condition, suitability and sufficiency of education assets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk 1 - School Capital Repair and Maintenance funding.</b> This funding has been increased significantly to address the more pressing Repair and Maintenance issues in schools, although it is recognised that in line with Council reductions in spend, there will be a corresponding reduction in the budget available.</p> <p>A Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) transitional SBIG grant has enabled the progress of some smaller capital projects. The successful competitive bid for funding has enabled the progress of the proposed amalgamation and new school in Connah's Quay. Contractors began work on-site in February 2011. Much work</p> </li> </ul>	

<p>and capital will be needed to achieve fitness for purpose of all Flintshire schools. This is the subject of the Strategic Outline Programme for the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century Schools Programme. A bid for a further tranche of funding through School building Improvement Grant (iii) has been successful - £4.5m for new Primary School in Shotton, an announcement delaying this funding for 12 months has been confirmed by the Assembly.</p> <p><b>Risk 2</b> The Education Capital Programmes are now coordinated with Corporate Asset Management Group (CAMG) and based on the criteria outlined in the Directorate Statement of Local Priorities. All proposed Capital works are scored and evaluated before approval by the Asset Management Group.</p> <p><b>Risk 3</b> The provision of the increased Repair and Maintenance budget will enable a more rapid progression to fitness for purpose. However, the estimated backlog of over £40million will mean that the risk will remain long-term, and is dependant on further capital funding from WAG. Reduction in the price of quotes is positive and the use of Prudential borrowing and capital receipts will increase available capital.</p> <p><b>Progress against corporate risk CD21</b></p> <p>a) Progress been made in relation to the improvement in data used for school place planning. Demography still being influenced by the economic situation, e.g. expected developments not being completed, and consequent 106 payments not being triggered.</p>	    
<p><b>Resource Management (Finance / People / ICT / Buildings)</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular budget monitoring to alert service managers to the current situation.</li> <li>• Extra staff resources on a temporary basis may be needed in the future once area reviews of provision begin. This will be on the basis of invest to save.</li> <li>• Resource implications will become clarified once the review process has started.</li> <li>• Significant workstream identified with the outworking of Post-16 provision review.</li> <li>• Significant workstream associated with the implementation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme and the implementation of the Strategic Outline Case for post – 16 developments.</li> <li>• Review of departmental structure in accordance with Corporate policy</li> <li>• Review of accommodation to release areas currently used for storage.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Priorities and Planning (Legislative / Inspections / Budgets / Improvements / Sustainability)</b></p>	
<p>Following the positive Estyn 14-19 inspection in January, 2011, an Action Plan will be developed on receipt of the final report.</p> <p>Pressures on various budgets have been identified and savings from the budget are also being identified as part of the monitoring process.</p> <p>Savings have been identified as part of the Flintshire Futures Programme, including a review of facilities services.</p>	

## Strategic Assessment of Risks & Challenges' RAG Summary (Refresh)

Risk Title		2010-2011			
		Q1	Q3	Q4	
Risk Reference	Community Leadership	June 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Predictive Green/Amber
CL03	Voluntary Sector Compact and Grants Review	G	G	G	MAR 2010
CL04	Affordable Housing	A	A	A	TBC
CL05	Social Care For Older People	A	A	A	TBC
CL07	Relationship with Local Health Board & Public & Primary Healthcare	A	A	A	TBC
CL08	Climate Change & Flood Risk Management		A	A	TBC
CL09	Economic Regeneration		A	A	TBC
CL10	Decline of Town Centres		G	G	SEP 2010
CL11	Integrated and Public Transport Infrastructure (External)	A	G	G	DEC 2010
CL12	Skills Needs of Employers		G	A	APR 2012
CL14	North Wales Regional Waste Treatment Partnership		A		2016/17
Risk Reference	Council Delivery	June 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Predictive Green/Amber
CD02	Streetscene	A	A	A	DEC 2011
CD03	Transistion from UDP to LDP	A	A	A	TBC
CD04	Planning Protocol	A	A	A	MAY 2011
CD05	Highways Infrastructure	A	A	A	TBC
CD06	Transport Arrangement For Service Users	A	A	A	TBC
CD07	Depot Provision	A	A	A	DEC 2013
CD08	Connah's Quay, Shotton & Deeside Renewal Area	A	A	A	TBC
CD10	Leisure - Future Provision	A	A	A	TBC
CD12a	Housing Strategy	A	A	A	SEP 2011
CD12b	Housing Management	A	A	A	DEC 2011
CD12c	Housing Repairs and Maintenance Services	A	A	A	APR 2011
CD12d	Homelessness	A	A	A	TBC
CD12e	Sheltered Housing	A	A	A	MAR 2012
CD14	Housing Ballot	A	A	A	JUN 2011
CD19	Gypsies and Travellers	R	R	A	TBC
CD20	School Buildings/School modernisation	R	R		APR 2018
CD22	School Effectiveness Framework and School Improvement Service	A	A	G	MAR 2011
CD23	Procurement of Independent Sector placements for looked after children	A	R	R	TBC
CD24	Social Care Recruitment and Retention of Staff	A	A	A	TBC
CD26	Disabled Facilities Grants	A	A	A	MAR 2012
CD27a	Waste Management Targets	A	A	A	2016/17
CD27c	Waste Management Operations	A	A	A	2016/17
CD27d	Waste Management (AD Waste)	A	G	G	SEP 2010
CD34	Severe Winter Weather		A	A	TBC
CD35	Grant Funding		R	R	TBC
CD37	Food Waste Treatment project		A	A	2015/16
Risk Reference	Council Governance	June 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Predictive Green/Amber
CG04	Risk Management	A	A	G	APR 2011
CG05	Asset Management	G	A	A	2015/16
CG06	Medium Term Financial Strategy	A	A	A	TBC
CG07	Financial Management and Control	A		A	TBC
CG08	ICT Strategy	G	A	A	TBC
CG09	Information Governance	A	A	A	TBC
CG10	Human Resources and Management	A	A	A	TBC
CG11	Single Status and Terms and Conditions of Employment	G	A	A	TBC
CG12	County Hall Campus Management	A	G		SEP 2010
CG13	Customer Focus	G	G	A	JUN 2011
CG14	Code of Corporate Governance	A	G	DG	JUN 2011
CG18	Procurement	G	A	A	TBC
CG19	Business Continuity (including Winter Disruption)	A	A	A	APR 2011
CG20	Business Performance of Semi Commercial Functions	R	A	A	TBC
CG21	Government Spending Review		R	R	TBC

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 7

**REPORT TO:** **LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**DATE :** **09 JUNE 2011**  
**REPORT BY:** **LEARNING AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
FACILITATOR**  
**SUBJECT :** **PLAY AREAS**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.01 To report on the findings and recommendations of the Play Areas Task group of the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

- 2.01 The task group was set up in January 2011 following consideration of the Play Areas Survey and a suggestion that a task group be formed to participate in a programme of assessment visits to play areas identified in the 'red' category in the report and give further consideration to sustainability of play areas in Flintshire.

The Flintshire County Council Annual Improvement Report states that "The Council has also been unable to afford to fully maintain the 176 play sites in the county. The updated Play Strategy notes that the annual repair and maintenance budget for play areas is insufficient in terms of long-term sustainability of the sites."

The task group have met on 3 occasions and have undertaken site visits to the 'red' play areas identified in the Play Areas Survey. The task group also visited The Bonc, a newly refurbished play area in Mynydd Isa.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.01 Rationalisation of Play Areas  
Free, open access play areas where children can come and go as they please without relying on parents to take them there are important to a child's development. Doorstep play areas are important so young children know that their parents are nearby if needed and also for parents to allow their children to go out to play. If children have a fear of playing they will not go out to play.
- 3.02 There appears to be a lack of provision for older children which needs to be addressed.

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Date: 03/06/2011

3.03 Of the sites visited, Primrose Street, Connah's Quay was of the most concern because the space is not ideal for encouraging play. Consultation should take place with the local ward members and the local community as to whether it should be decommissioned or have some other use within the local community.

3.04 The group did not agree with the order of priority that had been configured by the consultant and considered that some listed as red were not as bad as some listed as amber. However as it would be very difficult to visit all the play areas, the committee members agreed to use the report as evidence for prioritisation as it was a starting point.

3.05 Provision for play areas incorporated into planning consent

The group have requested further information on Planning Guidance Number 13 which has been amended to 2 or more properties. This is an area that may need to be investigated further via the planning protocol working group to ensure sustainable play provision in the future.

3.06 Match Funding

The Match Funding scheme has proved to be extremely successful with a good take up from town and community councils and should be continued. Due to the success of the scheme it suggested that criteria should be agreed for the allocation of match funding for future years.

Some initial suggestions include:-

- Priority should be given to applications from Town & Community Council who have a play area in the 'red' category

- The Play Areas Survey should form the basis of decision making regarding match funding with regard to the following

1. condition of existing equipment
2. safety of existing equipment and surfaces
3. recent/previous investment in site
4. local needs
5. Amber sites to be considered if match funding still available
6. Limit of £10,000 per site per annum Maximum contribution from

match funding scheme.

7. Emphasis on one site in locality to meet older children's needs.

In addition it was felt that Town & Community Councils should be made aware of the results and implications of the Play Areas Survey especially for those with 'red' category sites.

### 3.07 Grant Funding

Members suggested that an advice booklet should be developed to give community groups information on what grants are available and how to access them. Consideration should also be given to identifying mentors to work with groups to encourage local communities to improve play areas.

## 4.00 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That the Lifelong Learning Overview approve the following recommendations:-

1. There should be consultation with local ward members and residents regarding the future of Primrose Street play area in Connah's Quay.
2. That the planning protocol working group give further consideration to provision for play areas within planning mechanisms to ensure sustainable play provision in the future;
3. That criteria are agreed for future match funding schemes for play areas;
4. That Town and Community Councils are made aware of the results and implications of the Play Areas Survey ;
5. That an advice booklet is developed for community groups and consideration is given to identifying mentors to work with local communities to improve play areas;

4.02 That the Vice-Chair of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee be requested to present the report on behalf of the committee to the Executive.

## 5.00 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 Some recommendations contained within the report may have financial implications.

## 6.00 **ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**



6.01 Some recommendations contained within the report could have a positive impact on anti poverty.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None as a direct result of this report.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 Some recommendations contained within the report could have a positive impact on Equality.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None as a direct result of this report.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 N/A

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 N/A

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 None

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

Minutes of Lifelong Learning O & S Committee & Annual Improvement Report

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## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 8

**REPORT TO:** LIFELONG LEARNING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
**DATE :** 09 JUNE 2011  
**REPORT BY:** LEARNING AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FACILITATOR  
**SUBJECT :** FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To consider the Forward Work Programme of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 Items feed into a Committee's Forward Work Programme from a number of sources. Members can suggest topics for review by Overview & Scrutiny Committees, members of the public can suggest topics, items can be referred by the Executive for consultation purposes, or by County Council, or Directors. Other possible items are identified from the Executive Work Programme and the Strategic Assessment of Risks & Challenges.

2.02 In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful or a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:

1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives?
2. Are there issues of weak or poor performance?
3. How, where and why were the issues identified?
4. Do local communities think the issues are important and is there any evidence of this? Is there evidence of public dissatisfaction?
5. Is there new Government guidance or legislation?
6. Have inspections been carried out?
7. Is this area already the subject of an ongoing review?

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Overview & Scrutiny presents a unique opportunity for Members to determine the Forward Work Programme of the Committees of which they are members. By reviewing and prioritising the forward work programme Members are able to ensure it is member-led and includes the right issues. A copy of the Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for Members' consideration which has been updated following the last meeting.

### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Date: 03/06/2011

4.01 That the Committee considers its Forward Work Programme (attached as Appendix 1) and approve/amend as necessary.

**5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 None arising directly from this report

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 None arising directly from this report

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None arising directly from this report

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None arising directly from this report

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None arising directly from this report

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 Not applicable

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Publication of this report constitutes consultation

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 - Draft Forward Work Programme

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

As referred to in the report.

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DRAFT

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Session</b>	<b>Scrutiny Focus</b>	<b>Responsible/ Contact Officer</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>
<b>22 September</b>	14 – 19 educational provision	Standing Agenda Item	Service Development	Director of Lifelong Learning	<b>12 September</b>
	Q1 Performance Report	To enable members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring	Performance Monitoring	Director of Lifelong Learning	
	Outline Business Plan – Transforming Education: Provision of Schools Improvement Services	To consider the proposals contained within the Outline Business Plan	Service Development	Director of Lifelong Learning	
<b>20 October</b>	14 – 19 educational provision	Standing Agenda Item		Director of Lifelong Learning	<b>10 October</b>
<b>17 November</b>	14 – 19 educational provision	Standing Agenda Item		Director of Lifelong Learning	<b>7 November</b>
	School Balances	To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by school at the end of the financial year	Monitoring Report	Director of Lifelong Learning	
	School Exclusions	Annual monitoring report to ensure effective mechanisms remain in place for exclusions, together with appropriate levels of intervention and support	Monitoring Report	Director of Lifelong Learning	

Date	Item	Purpose of Report/Session	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible/ Contact Officer	Submission Deadline
15 December	Q2 Performance Report  14 – 19 educational provision	To enable members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring	Performance Monitoring	Director of Lifelong Learning  Director of Lifelong Learning	5 December

**Regular monitoring reports**

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
February	Pupil Attainment	To provide Members with a summary of pupil attainment across primary and secondary school phases for the school year.	Director of Lifelong Learning
March	Children & Young People Plan	Monitoring report	Director of Lifelong Learning
March	Educational Attainment of Looked After Children	To receive the annual educational attainment report (joint meeting with Social & Health)	Director of Lifelong Learning
Feb/March	Incidents of arson, vandalism and burglaries in Flintshire Schools	Annual update report to review progress	Director of Lifelong Learning
November 2010 onwards	School Balances	To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by school at the end of the financial year	Director of Lifelong Learning
November	School Exclusions	Annual monitoring report to ensure effective mechanisms remain in place for exclusions, together with appropriate levels of intervention and support	Director of Lifelong Learning
Quarterly	Performance Monitoring	To enable members to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.	Chief Executive/Director of Lifelong Learning

**Item to be Scheduled**

Formula Review update / Budget Strategy

**School Modernisation - ongoing**

Progress report on the planning and funding for the relocation of Saltney Library

Playgroups Progress Report – January 2012

Q3 – 22 March 2012      Q 4 14 June 2012