

Pecyn Dogfen Gyhoeddus

Gareth Owens LL.B Barrister/Bargyfreithiwr

Chief Officer (Governance)

Prif Swyddog (Llywodraethu)



Swyddog Cyswllt:

Janet Kelly 01352 702301

janet.kelly@flintshire.gov.uk

At: Cyng Teresa Carberry (Cadeirydd)

Y Cyngorwyr: Bill Crease, Paul Cunningham, Gladys Healey, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Ryan McKeown, Andrew Parkhurst, Carolyn Preece, David Richardson, Jason Shallcross a Arnold Woolley

Aelodau Cyfetholedig:

Lisa Allen, Lynn Bartlett a Wendy White

15 Mawrth 2024

Annwyl Gynghorydd

RHYBUDD O GYFARFOD HYBRID
PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU ADDYSG, IEUENCTID A DIWYLLIANT
DYDD IAU, 21AIN MAWRTH, 2024 AM 2.00 PM

Yn gywir

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Goodrum'.

Steven Goodrum

Rheolwr Gwasanaethau Democratiadd

Sylwch: Gellir mynychu'r cyfarfod hwn naill ai wyneb yn wyneb yn Ystafell Bwyllgor Delyn, Cyngor Sir y Fflint, Yr Wyddgrug, Sir y Fflint neu ar-lein.

Bydd y cyfarfod yn cael ei ffrydio'n fyw ar wefan y Cyngor. Bydd y ffrydio byw yn dod i ben pan fydd unrhyw eitemau cyfrinachol yn cael eu hystyried. Bydd recordiad o'r cyfarfod ar gael yn fuan ar ôl y cyfarfod ar <https://flintshire.publici.tv/core/portal/home>

Os oes gennych unrhyw ymholiadau, cysylltwch ag aelod o'r Tîm Gwasanaethau Democrataidd ar 01352 702345.

R H A G L E N

1 YMDDIHEURIADAU

Pwrpas: I dderbyn unrhyw ymddiheuriadau.

2 DATGAN CYSYLLTIAD (GAN GYNNWYS DATGANIADAU CHWIPIO)

Pwrpas: I dderbyn unrhyw ddatganiad o gysylltiad a chynghori'r Aelodau yn unol a hynny.

3 COFNODION (Tudalennau 3 - 12)

Pwrpas: I gadarnhau, fel cofnod cywir gofnodion y cyfarfod ar 1 Chwefror 2024.

4 RHAGLEN GWAITH I'R DYFODOL A OLRHAIN GWEITHRED (Tudalennau 13 - 22)

Adroddiad Hwylusydd Arolygu a Chraffu

Pwrpas: I Ystyried y flaenraglen waith Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Addysg, Ieuenctid a Diwylliant a rhoi gwybodaeth i'r Pwyllgor o'r cynnydd yn erbyn camau gweithredu o'r cyfarfod blaenorol.

5 TREFNIADAU CYNLLUNIO RHAG ARGYFWNG (Tudalennau 23 - 40)

Adroddiad Prif Weithredwr - Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg, y Gymraeg, Diwylliant a Hamdden, Arweinydd y Cyngor

Pwrpas: Rhoi gwybodaeth am gynllunio ac ymateb rhag argyfwng, trefniadau EMRT lleol, ac ymateb i ddileu gwasanaeth bws posib.

6 MYND I'R AFAEL AG EFFAITH ANGHYDRADDOLDEB AR DDEILLIANNAU ADDYSG (Tudalennau 41 - 48)

Adroddiad Prif Swyddog (Addysg ac Ieuenctid) - Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg, y Gymraeg, Diwylliant a Hamdden

Pwrpas: Rhoi diweddariad ar sut mae'r Portffolio Addysg ac Ieuenctid yn cefnogi ysgolion i fynd i'r afael ag effaith anghydraddoldeb. Rhoi diweddariad hefyd ar yr adnodd 'Cofia Ceri' a'i effaith ar ôl ei ailgyflwyno.

Sylwch, efallai y bydd egwyl o 10 munud os yw'r cyfarfod yn para'n hirach na dwy awr.

Eitem ar gyfer y Rhaglen 3

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **1 FEBRUARY 2024**

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Education, Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held on Thursday 1 February 2024.

PRESENT: Councillor Teresa Carberry (Chair)

Councillors: Gladys Healey, Dave Mackie, Gina Maddison, Andrew Parkhurst, Carolyn Preece, David Richardson, Jason Shallcross and Arnold Woolley

CO-OPTEEES: Lisa Allen and Lynne Bartlett

SUBSTITUTIONS:

Councillor Mel Buckley (for Councillor Paul Cunningham), Councillor Andy Hughes (for Councillor Bill Crease) and Councillor Ted Palmer (for Councillor Ryan McKeown)

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Helen Brown attended as an observer

APOLOGIES:

Vicky Barlow (Senior Manager – School Improvement)

CONTRIBUTORS:

Councillor Mared Eastwood (Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure); Councillor Dave Hughes (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Streetscene and the Regional Transport Strategy); Councillor Paul Johnson (Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value and Procurement); Chief Executive; Chief Officer (Education & Youth); Corporate Finance Manager; Post 16 and Adult Learning Adviser and Senior Manager, Youth Justice and Flintshire Sorted

IN ATTENDANCE:

Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Officers

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING DECLARATIONS)

Councillor Andrew Parkhurst declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 Council fund budget as his wife worked at a local primary school.

Councillor Mel Buckley declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 Council fund budget as her sister worked at a primary school in Flintshire.

41. MINUTES

30 November 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30 November 2023 were presented for approval.

In response to a question from Councillor Dave Mackie on the Saltney Broughton Area Review the Chief Officer (Education & Youth) confirmed that a report would be presented to Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee shortly. It was explained that this linked in with the future capital programme work.

The minutes of the meeting were approved, as moved and seconded by Councillors Carolyn Preece and Gladys Healey.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 30 November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

42 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

In presenting the report, the Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator outlined the items listed on the Forward Work Programme which was attached at Appendix 1. There were no proposed changes to the Forward Work Programme.

It was explained that following the last meeting there had been a number of changes to the Action Tracking report around the issues involving recruitment and retention, the amendment to the Additional Learning Needs items and Tackling the Impact of Inequality on Education Outcomes. The item on Demography was included as part of the Annual School Balances Report and the purpose shown on the Forward Work Programme had been amended to reflect this. A report had also been included on the Forward Work Programme on the Inspection Framework for Schools which would incorporate the Ask Ceri initiative.

The Chief Officer confirmed that the Forward Work Programme would be updated when the report from the Saltney Broughton Area Consultation was placed in the Cabinet cycle.

In response to a question from Councillor Gladys Healey on Theatr Clwyd the Chief Officer agreed to include an annual update item to the Forward Work Programme on the involvement of young people in the activities and to receive an update on the Flintshire Music Service.

The recommendations, as outlined within the report, were moved by Councillor Carolyn Preece and seconded by Councillor Ted Palmer.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be noted;
- (b) That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises; and
- (c) That the progress made in completing the outstanding actions be noted.

43 COUNCIL FUND BUDGET 2024/25

Introducing the report, the Corporate Finance Manager explained that this would be presented for consideration to all Overview & Scrutiny Committees. Regular updates on the Council's challenging budget position for 2024/25 had been provided to Members since last summer with the Welsh Government (WG) settlement announced on the 20th of December. He reflected on the Council's disappointing uplift of 2.2% compared with the Welsh average of 3.1% and to the summary of the key headlines which were reported to Cabinet on the 16 January which included the remaining gap of £12.946m. As a result, all portfolios had been asked to revisit and look at potential ways of reducing budgets or removing costs pressures to contribute towards meeting that gap. The report provided details of the additional proposals for the Education & Youth portfolio and the current proposals for Delegated Schools Budgets.

The Chief Officer (Education & Youth) commented on the two elements which had to be considered, the Education & Youth portfolio budget and the Delegated Schools Budgets, with point 1.05 in the report providing information on the proposed budget reductions. She thanked her Senior Managers for the work that they had undertaken scrutinising every line of their budgets saying that it was not an easy task to identify efficiencies whilst protecting the integrity of the service and enabling the portfolio to fulfil its statutory responsibilities. She referred to the RAG ratings for these services and highlighted the Youth Service which was showing as Amber.

The Chair invited questions and comments from the Committee on the budget proposals for the Education & Youth Portfolio.

Education & Youth Portfolio Budget Reductions

Councillor Andrew Parkhurst said that he believed that because of the financial difficulties the WG budget has presented the Council with each Portfolio had been asked to identify 7.5% of savings in order that Members could then decide which of those potential savings could be accepted or rejected and that Members would have a choice and make an informed decision. He said that there was a potential saving of £303,000 identified within the Education & Youth Portfolio excluding schools, but this did not equate to a 7.5% saving and he asked officers to clarify this. He also referred to the 8-month outturn for this financial year where there had been £367,000 of savings and asked how this had been identified as this was more than the savings proposed for the 2024/25 budget.

The Chief Officer advised that the total efficiencies identified did not equate to 7.5% of the overall budget for the Portfolio but explained that each Portfolio was asked to find up to 7.5% of efficiencies and that this was an aspiring target. Any further efficiencies above those identified would risk delivery of statutory services and risk the Council not being able to meet its statutory functions.

In relation to the £367,000 identified in-year efficiencies, the Chief Officer advised that this had come from a moratorium on the reduction or stopping of spend in each Portfolio. One of the reasons for this efficiency was around the provision of 3 year olds and early years education with pupil numbers not coming through as anticipated, which reflected the fall in birth rates in recent times. The Corporate Finance Manager

added that the Council looked for recurring reductions in budget as a sustainable way of reducing budget requirements for next year. The moratorium and temporary underspend were not reoccurring in nature but have been put in place to assist with the in-year overspend.

Councillor Gladys Healey asked if there was financial provision for any refugees that may settle within the County. The Chief Officer said yes to the best of her knowledge. There had been a number of families who had settled in Flintshire and education provision had been made for them. This was a challenge for all Local Authorities as it would not be made aware significantly in advance when the Home Office would direct them to receive families and children to be located in Flintshire. There was a structured process in place to manage this and the Council worked closely with schools which had been demonstrated in recent times.

Councillor Jason Shallcross asked if a further explanation could be given on the budget reductions for Youth Services around the asset transfer of some buildings. He believed the Council would incur a yearly cost for renting back space to use within the buildings in future. The Chief Officer explained that the challenge for Youth Services was that it had, under its control, a number of buildings which were not solely used for youth clubs, but by other organisations who pay rent under the Fees and Charges Policy. This was an expensive model. The Council was looking at appropriate community groups/parents to take over the buildings as an asset transfer and if an affective partnership was developed, the Youth Service could rent back what it needed to create the opportunity for efficiencies which would allow for additional funding of more youth workers out in the communities working with schools and young people to support them.

The Chief Executive advised that of the 2 current asset transfers, the one at Penyffordd was quite advanced, so should happen sooner and reduce the risk to the Council in meeting the budget reduction, as shown in the report.

Delegated Schools Budgets

The Chief Officer outlined the cost pressures for the Delegated Schools Budgets which included a significant pressure in relation to pay awards for teachers and support staff, as detailed in the report. Reference was made to the cost pressures around the management of foundation phase, specialist school provision, the increased cost pressures for Free School Meals, Transitional Rate Relief, NDR multiplier and the Specialist Mobile Classroom at the Specialist Primary School. A summary was provided on the reductions and adjustments within the Delegated Schools Budgets which included information on the reductions in costs for energy, reduction in pupil numbers and costs relating to performance around pensions. It was explained that following the proposal to remove £3m from the Delegated Schools Budgets this would still leave an uplift of 3.5% to their budgets.

The Chief Officer confirmed that the budget proposals had been presented and discussed at a meeting with Head Teachers and School Governors who understood why these decisions were being made.

Councillor Gladys Healey said that a consequence of cutting schools budgets by 3% may result in redundancies and asked would the Council be assisting financially with the cost of redundancies. The Leader of the Council advised that the cost of redundancies did not sit with the Council. The Council were there to advise and support schools who maybe in that difficult situation.

Councillor Dave Mackie said that he could not support a 3% reduction in school budgets and would suggest that a 3% reduction in the delivery of education to pupils would take the Council below an acceptable minimal level. He said that last year the school budgets were reduced by 3% and if the Council thought it acceptable to cut another 3% why not increase this figure last year. He also said that there was a lot of evidence that schools need to perform better, and they need improved budgets and if you look at the PISA results this was concerning as Wales were at the bottom across the UK and also information from WG showed that, in relation, to Mathematics, Reading and Science performance levels were below that of 2021.

In relation to School Balances, Councillor Mackie said that reserves had reduced by £5m meaning that schools has spent their budget allocation and an additional £5m, this was not all schools but it showed that schools were already operating at an unacceptable lowest level.

The Leader of the Council said that grouping all schools the same was disingenuous and unfair on headteachers, teachers and young people who were working hard to maintain education provision for young people to have the best possible standard of education. Members were aware of the problems this year with the budget, and he was currently working on a response with the Chief Executive and other finance officers to WG which would be robust and strong. Schools needed more budget; the Council needed more budget and WG needed more budget. He asked where Councillor Mackie proposed that the additional funding be found and whether Councillor Mackie would recommend an additional 3% to be added to Council Tax and ringfenced for schools. He said that nobody wanted to be in this position, but schools had the option to apply for a licenced deficit which the Council did not. The Council had to set a balanced budget.

Councillor Parkhurst asked if an explanation could be provided on what the funding of £1.124m entitled 'Unallocated Schools Budget' related to. It was agreed that a response be provided to the Committee following the meeting.

The recommendation, as outlined within the report, were moved by Councillor Ted Palmer and seconded by Councillor Carolyn Preece.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Education and Youth Portfolio's options to reduce budgets be noted; and
- (b) That the proposals for the delegated schools' budget be noted.

44 LEARNERS OUTCOME – GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS 2022/23

The Chief Officer (Education & Youth) introduced the report which provided an overview of GCSE and A-Level results for 2022/23. It had not been possible to compare examination results with previous years because of the varying examinations which had taken place since 2019. An update on the interim arrangements for key stage 4 and 5 was provided and it was explained that as a result of the pandemic there was a period of centre determined grades with adjustment made to grade boundaries. In 2019 Welsh Government (WG) decided that performance data would not be shared but had made a decision that some headline indicators of the 2023 summer results could be placed in the public domain and this information was outlined at point 1.01 of the report. Members were referred to points 1.05 and 1.06 of the report which included detail on the national outcomes for key stage 4 by pupil characteristics for the summer of 2023, and outcomes for key stage 4 in 2022/23 against the Wales average. Information was then provided on the proposed changes for Post 16 learners and point 1.10 of the report outlined the different measures used when monitoring performance. Members were referred to the Flintshire and National Outcomes at points 1.11, 1.12 and 1.13 in the report but it was highlighted that this data did not include all the appeals processes which had been undertaken. Information on the ALPS Education system was included at Point 1.14 of the report.

Councillor Carolyn Preece commended the Education & Youth Portfolio and all schools on their performance following Covid and applauded the effort and work that had been undertaken. She said that it was difficult to measure with not everyone achieving the same qualifications which could not be measured in the same way. Pupils were performing well in literacy, numeracy and the sciences which enabled them to progress to higher education.

The Leader agreed with the comments made and thanked the schools, teachers, parents, governors, and everyone involved for what had been achieved. He agreed with the comments made around the damage caused to the education system by the pandemic and felt the youngest children lost the most. The Chief Officer and himself pressed for younger children to return to school first and the then Minister Kirsty Williams agreed. He felt the very young children would be affected by this for the remainder of their time in education. He praised the staff for all their hard work helping children to catch up to where they would have been had the pandemic not happened.

The Chair recommended a second recommendation as follows, which was seconded by Councillor Carolyn Preece:-

- That the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to all Secondary Headteachers to thank them for their work in supporting their examination year groups.

The recommendation, as outlined within the report, was moved by Councillor Gladys Healey and seconded by Councillor Ted Palmer.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee note the outcomes for key stages 4 and 5 examinations in 2022/23 and recognise the hard work of secondary schools in Flintshire in supporting their examination year groups; and
- (b) That the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to all Secondary Headteachers to thank them for their work in supporting their examination year groups.

45 REVISION OF POST 16 STRATEGY

In presenting the report the Post 16 and Adult Learning Adviser commented that there were two points she wished to highlight. The first was that the operational date for the new Commission had changed from the 1 April to the 1 August 2024. This illustrated the unprecedented changes which were taking place within Post 16 provision which affected every sector and all providers up to higher education. Secondly, she wished to reassure members that the Council was very involved in informing and influencing the statement of priorities in the New Commission and that she was a member of the National Adult Learning Wales Partnership which held monthly briefings with Welsh Government and Officials specifically around the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER). The portfolio was also represented on the 14 to 19 Regional Group which met nationally specifically looking at financing for Post 16 and the changes which were being introduced under the new proposals. This information was fed back to the six counties in the North. Vicky Barlow, Senior Manager for School Improvement, was a member of the Regional Skills Board where apprenticeships were discussed with CTER having a role. With regard to schools sixth forms, it was reported that work was ongoing with GwE to enable opportunities for Head Teachers of schools with Sixth Forms to meet with the new Chief Executive of CTER to enable schools to influence the statement of priorities going forward.

Councillor Carolyn Preece commented said this could be a massive improvement with all areas working as one. She had looked at the membership of the Commission which include high level professional professors who would be guiding in this area. She felt this would bring everyone together and provide a flow through the education process and felt that this was a positive move forward. She looked forward to receiving reports on this in the future.

The recommendation, as outlined within the report, was moved by Councillor Carolyn Preece and seconded by Councillor Arnold Woolley.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee confirm that it has received an appropriate level of assurance regarding the work of the Education & Youth Portfolio in supporting schools with sixth form provision to be able to meet the requirement of the new Commission for Tertiary Education and Research.

46 FEEDBACK FROM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE REVIEW

The report was introduced by the Senior Manager for Youth Justice and Flintshire Sorted and included the findings from the Youth Justice Peer Review which was completed by the Youth Justice Sector Peer Improvement Partnership in October 2023. This was not an inspection but a requested peer review which was part of the service's continuous improvement programme. Discussions had been held with the Chief Executive and Chief Officer which had identified key lines for enquiry specifically looking at the strength of leadership and governance of the Youth Justice Service Executive Management Board and the partnerships which were represented on that Board.

The information the board received was of good quality and identified that the Youth Justice Service was making progress on its priorities and plans. It was also identified that some external partners should take ownership of some of the strategic issues with some priorities held by the Local Authority. The Peer Review noted the commitment of the service and its Management Board and Partners to a child first and trauma informed approach which was commended within the report. Practitioners were commended for the creative way that they engaged with children and young people. Some areas for improvement related to the delivery group which sat under the Youth Justice Management Board and the over reliance on the Youth Justice Service and Local Authority to drive some of the improvement plans. Information was provided on the recommendations and areas of consideration made in response to observations of the Peer Review and the progress of the delivery plans which were highlighted at points 2.03 and 2.04 in the report.

The Chief Officer (Education & Youth) commented that the report provided a level of assurance, and this had been a useful exercise to sense check where the Service was and strategically assess its own plans for improvement. She provided background on how the service had moved to a stand-alone service and that having the Chief Executive as Chair of the Youth Justice Management Board highlighted how important this was.

Councillor Gina Maddison offered her congratulations on an excellent report.

The recommendation, as outlined within the report, were moved by Councillor Arnold Woolley and seconded by Councillor Dave Mackie.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the recommendations from the Peer Review.

47 COUNCIL PLAN 2023-24 MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The Chief Officer (Education & Youth) presented the mid-year performance report saying that regular updates were provided to committee on the progress of council priorities in the Council Plan for 2023/24. This was an exemption-based report and focused on areas which were not currently achieving their target. Point 1.05 in the

report highlighted that there were no activities or performance indicators showing a Red RAG Status for the portfolio. There was a lot of work still being undertaken with regard to the delivery of the Council Plan Priorities.

Following a number of questions from Councillor Dave Mackie the Chief Officer (Education & Youth) provided detailed responses to questions in relation to Attendance levels and the Educational Welfare Service, children who were struggling to re-engage with school following the pandemic, the appointment of Engagement Workers and the adoption of the Digital Strategy in schools.

The overall objective was to raise attendance levels and the Chief Officer was happy to report that attendance levels were improving, and that the authority was currently fourth in Wales. It was confirmed that the comment described within the report was around what action was required and what steps were being taken to continue to improve attendance levels. Information was given on the development of better more effective processes within schools ensuring that the Education Welfare Service used that data to target their interventions more effectively in schools.

It was explained that the use of the Community Focus Schools Grant made available by Welsh Government (WG) had enabled engagement workers working with schools and families to tackle the core issues which led to young people not attending school or struggling to maintain their place. This was an action to deliver the overall objective of trying to reduce exclusions.

In response to a question from Councillor Ted Palmer regarding school attendance as a result of the Pandemic, the Chief Officer commented that this was a national issue and the National Attendance Task Force had been created by the Minister to address this. An outline of the partners sitting on this Task Force was given and the Chief Officer attended the first meeting the previous week. She agreed to circulate two reports prepared by parent charities which were presented to that meeting and highlighted the shift in attitude of pupils and parents around attendance. It was explained that for children to attend school the curriculum had to be appropriate, exciting and engaging. It was explained how the new curriculum focused on these aspects.

Councillor Carolyn Preece commended the Officers for the report which showed that there were no Red statuses and commented that the performance targets for each of the areas currently showing an Amber and Green status were achievable.

Councillor Gladys Healey referred to the attendance levels and asked if home schooling levels would be increasing and asked if the Home Schooling Officer could attend a meeting of the Committee to provide an update on progress.

The Chief Officer confirmed that post pandemic there had been an increase in the number of parents electing to home educate their children. A report was presented to Committee last year around home education data and how the Educational Welfare Service undertook its statutory function monitoring these children with regard to the education provided. It was explained that the portfolio was fulfilling its statutory responsibilities in terms of monitoring the register with a senior team officer sitting on the National Group for Elective Home Education. The Facilitator explained that a report

on Attendance and Exclusion was scheduled for the May meeting and that an invitation would be sent to the Home-Schooling Officer to attend.

It was proposed that an additional recommendation be added as follows:-

- That the thanks of the Committee be passed to all staff to thank them for their hard work in achieving the key priority targets against the Council Plan 2023/24 performance indicators/measures.

The recommendations, as outlined within the report, and including the additional recommendation proposed above, were moved by Councillor Carolyn Preece and seconded by Councillor Gladys Healey.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee support the levels of progress and confidence in the achievement of priorities as detailed within the Council Plan 2023/28 for delivery within 2023/24;
- (b) That the Committee support overall performance against the Council Plan 2023/24 performance indicators/measures;
- (c) That the Committee is assured by explanations given for those areas of underperformance; and
- (d) That the thanks of the Committee be passed to all staff to thank them for their hard work in achieving the key priority targets against the Council Plan 2023/24 performance indicators/measures.

48. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 3.56 pm)

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Chair

Eitem ar gyfer y Rhaglen 4



EDUCATION YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 21 st March, 2024
Report Subject	Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking
Report Author	Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview & Scrutiny presents a unique opportunity for Members to determine the Forward Work programme of the Committee 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.

The Committee is asked to consider, and amend where necessary, the Forward Work Programme for the Education Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The report also shows actions arising from previous meetings of the Education Youth & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the progress made in completing them. Any outstanding actions will be continued to be reported to the Committee as shown in Appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATION

1	That the Committee considers the draft Forward Work Programme and approve/amend as necessary.
2	That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises.
3	That the Committee notes the progress made in completing the outstanding actions.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING
1.01	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 Cabinet for consultation purposes, or by County Council or Chief Officers. Other possible items are identified from the Cabinet Work Programme and the Improvement Plan.
1.02	<p>In identifying topics for future consideration, it is useful for a 'test of significance' to be applied. This can be achieved by asking a range of questions as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Will the review contribute to the Council's priorities and/or objectives?2. Is it an area of major change or risk?3. Are there issues of concern in performance?4. Is there new Government guidance of legislation?5. Is it prompted by the work carried out by Regulators/Internal Audit?6. Is the issue of Public or Member concern?
1.03	In previous meetings, requests for information, reports or actions have been made. These have been summarised as action points. Following a meeting of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee in July 2018, it was recognised that there was a need to formalise such reporting back to Overview & Scrutiny Committees, as 'Matters Arising' was not an item which can feature on an agenda.
1.04	It was suggested that the 'Action tracking' approach be trialled for the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Following a successful trial, it was agreed to extend the approach to all Overview & Scrutiny Committees.
1.05	The Action Tracking details including an update on progress is attached at Appendix 2.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	None as a result of this report.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	In some cases, action owners have been contacted to provide an update on their actions.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	None as a result of this report.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Forward Work Programme Appendix 2 – Action Tracking for the Education Youth & Culture OSC.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Minutes of previous meetings of the Committee as identified in Appendix 2. Contact Officer: Ceri Shotton Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator Telephone: 01352 702305 E-mail: ceri.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	Improvement Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Improvement Objectives and publish an Improvement Plan.

Mae'r dudalen hon yn wag yn bwrpasol

CURRENT FWP

Date of meeting	Subject	Purpose of Report	Scrutiny Focus	Responsible / Contact Officer
<p>Thursday 23rd May, 2024</p> <p>2.00pm</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Tudalen 17</p>	<p>Attendance and Exclusions</p>	<p>To provide Members with an overview of school attendance and exclusions and the role of the Portfolio's support services in this area. The Home-Schooling Officer to also be invited to the meeting to outline the work and support being provided.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth), and Senior Manager Inclusion Services</p>
	<p>Estyn Inspection Framework</p>	<p>To provide information on the new Inspection Framework for Schools from Estyn.</p>	<p>Information Sharing</p>	<p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth),</p>
	<p>Revised Local Government Inspection Framework</p>	<p>To provide information on the revised Local Government Inspection Framework.</p>	<p>Information Sharing</p>	<p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth),</p>
<p>Thursday 27th June, 2024</p> <p>Joint meeting with S&HC OSC - 2.00pm</p>	<p>Safeguarding in Education including Internet Safety and Social Media</p> <p>Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018</p>	<p>To provide an update on the discharge of statutory safeguarding duties in schools and the Education portfolio. To include information on Relationship and Sexual Education and how this was contributing to reducing harm.</p> <p>To outline the approach to the identification and commissioning of education for Flintshire young people.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p> <p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth) and Healthy Schools Practitioner</p> <p>Senior Manager – Inclusion & Progression</p>

	<p>Looked After Children Placements - Outcome of the review and impact on FCC local policy</p> <p>Social Media and Internet Safety</p>	<p>To outline the outcome of the review and impact of FCC Local Policy</p> <p>To provide Members with an update on the Portfolio’s Social Media and Internet Safety policy and provision.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p> <p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Senior Manager – Inclusion & Progression</p> <p>Learning Adviser - Health, Well-being and Safeguarding</p>
<p>Thursday 11th July, 2024</p> <p>Tuesday 2.0pm</p>	<p>Council Plan 2023-24 Year-End Performance</p>	<p>To review the levels of progress in the achievement of activities and performance levels identified in the Council Plan.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Chief Officer (Education & Youth)</p>
<p>September/ October 2024</p> <p>Date to be confirmed</p>	<p>School Reserves Year Ending 31 March 2023 and Demographics</p>	<p>To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by Flintshire schools at the end of the financial year and information on changes in demographics.</p>	<p>Assurance Monitoring</p>	<p>Strategic Finance Manager (Schools)</p>

INFORMATION REPORTS/BRIEFING PAPERS TO BE CIRCULATED TO THE COMMITTEE

Item	Purpose of information report	Month
Health & Safety in Schools	Information report on accidents during the academic year and the actions taken to support schools in achieving healthy and safe environment.	December
Parking Outside Schools	To provide information from the Highways Team on legislation around parking outside schools and the mechanism in place for joint working with the Police and Schools.	-
Policies for dealing with bullying in schools	To provide information on School Policies for dealing with instances of bullying.	-

Items to be scheduled

Judalen.19

Recycling School Uniforms – **Referred to the Committee from the Environment & Economy OSC.**

Healthy Schools Scheme and Healthy & Sustainable Pre-School Scheme (HSPSS) – That the Committee be advised / consulted on the aims & objectives when the scheme is relaunched – **suggested at July 2023 meeting**

- Consultation on Member Role Descriptions - To consult Members on the draft role descriptions as provided in the revised draft Model Constitution – **moved from October, 2023 to be allocated to a new meeting date**
- Leeswood Transition Club – To receive a fuller report on the success of the scheme – **suggested at October meeting**
- Theatr Clwyd and School Music Service – Annual report on the involvement of young people in the activities at Theatr Clwyd, together with an update on the School Music Service – **suggested at February 2024 meeting**
- Saltney and Broughton Area Review – **suggested at February 2024 meeting**
- Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan – **Deferred from 21 March meeting**

REGULAR ITEMS

Month	Item	Purpose of Report	Responsible / Contact Officer
February/ March	School Modernisation	To update Members on the progress made with School Modernisation.	Senior Manager School Planning & Provision
May	Attendance & Exclusions	To provide Members with an overview of school attendance and exclusions and the role of the Portfolio's support services in this area.	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
September	Self-evaluation on education services & learner outcomes	To update Members on overall service performance including Learner Outcomes.	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
June	Additional Learning Needs	To update members on the implementation of national ALN reforms in schools and the role of the Portfolio's support services in this area.	Senior Manager – Inclusion & Progression
September	Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)	To receive an update on progress with the development of the regional school effectiveness and improvement service, to include a presentation from the Chief Officer of GwE.	Chief Officer (Education & Youth) & GwE Senior Officers
September	School Balances	To provide the Committee with details of the closing balances held by Flintshire schools at the end of the financial year.	Finance Manager
Annually	Learning from the School Performance Monitoring Group (SPMG)	To receive the annual report on progress and learning from the SPMG.	Senior Manager – School Improvement;
Annually	Social Media & Internet Safety - now part of Safeguarding Report to the Joint Scrutiny Committee	To receive an annual report assurance/monitoring.	Healthy Schools Practitioner

ACTION TRACKING FOR THE EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting Date	Agenda item	Action Required	Action Officer(s)	Action taken	Timescale
19.10.2023	4. Budget 2024/25 – Stage 2	As shown in recommendation (e) that a report on issues around recruitment and retention be added to the FWP. It was explained that this was a wider issue affecting all portfolio's, therefore consideration would need to be given on how this could be taken forward.	Ceri Shotton	Report on recruitment and retention to be presented to the Corporate Resources OSC and added to the FWP.	Completed.
01.02.2024	4. Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	Following a question from Cllr David Mackie, during consideration of the minutes of the last meeting, it was agreed that a report on the Saltney and Broughton Area Review be added to the FWP for consideration at a future meeting.	Claire Homard / Ceri Shotton	Added to FWP under 'Items to be Scheduled'.	Completed
01.02.2024	4. Forward Work Programme and Action Tracking	Following a request from Cllr Gladys Healey, it was agreed that an annual update report on the involvement of young people in the activities at Theatr Clwyd, together with an update on the School Music Service be added to the FWP.	Ceri Shotton	Added to FWP under 'Items to be Scheduled'.	Completed
01.02.2024	5. Council Fund Budget 2024/25	In response to a query from Cllr Andrew Parkhurst regarding the funding of £1.124m entitled "Unallocated Schools Budget", it was	Gary Ferguson	Information circulated to Committee Members via e-mail on 02.02.2024	Completed

ACTION TRACKING

APPENDIX 2

		agreed that a response be circulated to the Committee following the meeting.			
01.02.2024	6. Learner Outcome – GCSE and A Level Results 2022/23	As shown in recommendation (b), that the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to all Secondary Headteachers to thank them for their work in supporting their examination year groups.	Cllr Teresa Carberry / Ceri Shotton	Letter circulated to all Secondary Heads via e-mail on 15.03.2024.	Completed
01.02.2024	9. Council Plan 2023-24 Mid-Year Performance Reporting	In response to a question from Cllr Ted Palmer regarding school attendance as a result of the Pandemic, Claire Homard suggested that a copy of 2 reports prepared by parent charities and shared at the recent National Attendance Task Force meeting be shared with the Committee following the meeting.	Claire Homard	Reports circulated to Members of the Committee via e-mail on 09.02.2024.	Completed
01.02.2024	9. Council Plan 2023-24 Mid-Year Performance Reporting	As shown in recommendation (d) that the thanks of the Committee be passed to all staff to thank them for their hard work in achieving the key priority targets against the Council Plan 2023/24 performance indicators/measures.	Claire Homard		

Eitem ar gyfer y Rhaglen 5



EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 21 st March 2024
Report Subject	Emergency Planning Arrangements
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report considers a particular incident relating to a burst water main affecting a large area of Flintshire in September 2023.

The report also details the Emergency Planning function within the Council and how this statutory duty is discharged.

The report looks at the regional service and how it works on a collaborative basis detailing the benefits for Flintshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report is noted together with the response from Welsh Water and that the wider work of the regional service and any feedback is provided for consideration by the service and its partners.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	WATER MAIN BURST & THE NORTH WALES REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE (NWC-REPS)
1.01	<p>On 11th September 2023 there was a burst water main on Liverpool Road. This affected 3,417 properties in the area. Welsh Water isolated the issue and rezoned water supplies. This action restored water supplied to 2,498 households leaving 919 properties who were intermittently left without water. The re-zoning led to other smaller burst in the following three days but these were addressed as they arose.</p>
1.02	<p>As part of the review of the event we have investigated the contact made by Welsh Water to Flintshire County Council. From review it is noted that the contact made was specifically regarding the road closures required to repair the burst, no other department was informed of the incident.</p>
1.03	<p>Following this event, and on the basis of lessons learned, we have subsequently raised the response with Welsh Water who have now created an escalation plan to inform Emergency Planning when incidents of this nature occur for us to be able to inform key staff and members in affected areas. As part of the roll out of this plan a test exercise will be planned to embed this into practice.</p>
1.04	<p><u>The wider role of Emergency Planning</u> The Council has statutory responsibilities for emergency planning and response under the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Civil Contingencies Acts 2004,• The Control of Major Accident Hazards 2018 (COMAH)• the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001• The Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996
1.05	<p>The Council is also a principal responder and meets its obligations by collaborating with the North Wales Local Authorities through the North Wales Council's Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS).</p>
1.06	<p>Following consultation and ratification through the political process in each Local Authority, Emergency Planning functions for all six local authorities in North Wales were amalgamated into one service under an inter-authority agreement hosted by Flintshire in 2014. The Service is monitored via a Management Board comprising of representatives from the six commissioning local authorities. The Executive Board representative for Flintshire is the Chief Executive.</p>
1.07	<p>NWC-REPS provide the primary link between the Council and the North Wales Local Resilience Forum (LRF), with contributions from service staff being fundamental to multi-agency groups, events, processes, and plans. Continuity is strengthened as relationships are built with key partners. NWC-REPS provides out-of-hours support to the local authority and blue light services in response to queries and incidents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.</p>

1.08	The service works with multi-agency partners to identify and mitigate the risks identified in HM Government National Risk Register 2023 (refer to section 6.00).
1.09	Within the Council, responsibilities for emergency planning and response are shared across services and nominated service representatives are identified within the Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) structure. The EMRT structure within the Council facilitates the coordination of incidents with Business Continuity implications for the authority. EMRT will coordinate the response on behalf of the Council to any multi-agency incidents.
1.10	The EMRT provides a robust mechanism for the delivery of emergency planning and response functions. Teams meet regularly to review arrangements in place and identify future activities. Oversight is provided via the Councils Chief Officer team.
1.11	NWC-REPS supports the EMRT by representing Local Authorities at the Local Resilience Forum and their sub-groups. In addition, NWC-REPS assists the authority by writing, exercising, and testing emergency plans.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
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2.01	<p>The Flintshire County Council's annual contribution to the service is £103,615. The contribution is based on a proportion of 19.348% towards the annual budget for the service. Since its inception, the Service has reduced the contributions of the six local authorities by over £300k.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Local Authority</th> <th>Annual Contribution %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Isle of Anglesey County Council</td> <td>10.472%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conwy County Borough Council</td> <td>16.940%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denbighshire County Council</td> <td>14.865%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flintshire County Council</td> <td>19.348%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gwynedd Council</td> <td>17.979%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wrexham County Borough Council</td> <td>20.396%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There are no revenue/capital implications for this financial year.</p> <p>The service is currently undergoing a review of the structure to identify savings and improve the resilience of the team. Work is progressing with HR colleagues to finalise the service review and implement the changes.</p>	Local Authority	Annual Contribution %	Isle of Anglesey County Council	10.472%	Conwy County Borough Council	16.940%	Denbighshire County Council	14.865%	Flintshire County Council	19.348%	Gwynedd Council	17.979%	Wrexham County Borough Council	20.396%	Total	100%
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Total	100%																

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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3.01	Impact assessment is not required as this is a report is for information only.
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4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Consultation on the service is undertaken via the Executive Management Board.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A - NWC-REPS Annual Report.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	National Risk Register https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64ca1dfe19f5622669f3c1b1/2023_NATIONAL_RISK_REGISTER_NRR.pdf

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Helen Kilgannon Regional Manager Telephone: 01352 702125 E-mail: helen.kilgannon@nwc-reps.org.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	N/A



Annual Report 2022/23

This is the annual North Wales Councils - Regional Emergency Planning Service report for the year 2022-2023. It covers the work carried out by NWC-REPS across the six local authorities in the region, as well as multi-agency activities undertaken to support North Wales Local Resilience Forum.

North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service

enquiries@nwc-reps.org.uk
01352 702124



CYNGOR SIR
YNYSS MON
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL



CONWY
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



Cyngor
sir ddenbych
denbighshire
County Council



wrexham
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
WREXHAM



CYNGOR
Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS)

Isle of Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council work together in a partnering relationship through the establishment of a Regional Emergency Planning Service for North Wales. Since 2014 the Service has undertaken the functions of the Councils in respect of civil contingencies and is accountable to an Executive Board that comprises senior representatives of these Councils. NWC-REPS provides a service to ensure the Local Authorities are compliant with the following legislation: -

- **Civil Contingencies Act, 2004**
- **Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations, 2015**
- **Pipeline Safety Regulations, 1996**
- **Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations, 2019**

The Service works to:

- **Reduce duplication and repetition of tasks**
- **Improve the harmonisation of the work and resilience of teams**
- **Improve deployment of available resources by sharing specialist support and common tasks**
- **Improve consistency of response between authorities**
- **Improve communication channels between the North Wales Resilience Forum and local authorities**

Review of Performance

The aims and objectives for the year 2022-2023 were:

- **Design and deliver a Rest Centre exercise to embed the new Rest Centre Plan**
- **Review Local Authority response procedures and create the Major Emergency arrangements**
- **Review and redesign the Business Continuity Template prior to roll out**
- **Develop and implement the performance management system, InPhase.**



The Rest Centre exercise was rolled out across 8 sites and attended by all six local authorities with over 90 attendees in total. Below is a snap shot of some of the reoccurring feedback from the exercises.

What went well?	What didn't go well?	Can you identify any issues that need addressing in your rest centre procedures?
Understanding roles & responsibilities. This is clearly laid out in the emergency response plan.	Unexpected increase in numbers	Ensuring all individuals have access to lists and ECD
Useful discussion of scenarios	What resources are available in each leisure centre and for catering if prolonged use	Ensuring clear list of rest centre numbers, risks, issues
Good to meet other volunteers - put faces to names.	Transport and security	Payment arrangements
Having the benefit of others experience shared & knowing the support is available from others.	No overnight resources	Need to check the transport list
Clarity - Rules, Processes, Systems	No deputies and staff from other sections e.g. Housing and other reps	Access OOH
Visualise Rest Centre place/accommodation	Box needs updating	Security
Good presentation/slides	Language limitation at outset	What facilities are available at the centre?
Emergency Planning Staff very supportive.	As discussing the Rest Centre Box, get the contents out to show everyone at the same time.	Number of rest centres reduces due to Gym use - do we need to utilise more School space?
Nice to regroup and talk through procedures	Difficult learning environment - Temp - Noise	Directory of Community Champion assistance would be useful
Could listen to more experienced volunteers	Can't use here for R.C.	Refugees displaced - Resettlement Officer to liaise - language barrier

The Major Emergency Arrangements have been implemented in all 6 local authority areas and the team are working on desktop exercises in order to test the embedding.

The Business Continuity Template has been rolled out and is currently being reviewed. Following this work, embedding and scenario testing will be undertaken. The development and implementation of Inphase is ongoing . There have been a number of setbacks with staff changes in both NWC-REPS and Flintshire which has hampered progress. We are in the process of linking directly with Inphase and will build the system to meet the needs of the service in the coming 12 months.

Incident Management

NWC-REPS provides a 24/7 year-round Duty Officer to act as the initial point of contact for emergency response.

During the financial year 2022-23, NWC-REPS assisted in this role by: -

- **Receiving and assessing Natural Resources Wales warnings and alerts:**

30 84 Community Flood Alerts

- **249 Flood Alerts**
- **4 Community Flood Warnings**
- **4 Flood Warnings**
- **8 Early Warnings**
- **Receiving, and assessing Met Office Weather Warnings:**
 - **Gwynedd = 70 (67 yellow / 3 Amber)**
 - **Conwy = 69 (65 yellow / 4 Amber)**
 - **Anglesey = 48 (46 yellow / 2 Amber)**
 - **Denbighshire = 68 (61 yellow / 7 Amber)**
 - **Flintshire = 64 (57 yellow / 7 Amber)**
 - **Wrexham = 67 (60 yellow / 7 Amber)**



- Receiving and responding to incident reports that included: -
 - **Potential Prohibition Notice at site holding refugees in Denbighshire**
 - **Ukraine Refugee Welcome Centre's across North Wales**
 - **Potential Sink Hole March 2023 Wrexham**
 - **Operation Blue Overlax - Conwy Refugee Centre**
 - **Operation Blue Opacify - Menai Bridge Closure**
 - **Operation Blue Shoebox - Snow Storm Larissa March 2023**
 - **Missing People report in Denbighshire**
 - **Industrial Action**

Working together

- **Embedding of Rest Centre Plan with Regional Rest Centre training**
- **Business Continuity Management Plans taken to Executive Board for signing off**
- **Promotion of LRF training events within the local authorities**
- **Bilingual eLearning modules finalised**



Work carried out during 2022 to 2023

- **The regional Major Emergency Arrangements Plan was introduced and prompted a review of the emergency response framework. The plan and framework were subsequently approved by the Senior Leadership Team.**
- **Assessments and impacts of winter pressures and power outages was undertaken. National situation monitored and briefings/updates given to the Senior Leadership Team.**
- **Supported the Senior Leadership Team and provided evidence for the Conwy response to Module 1 of the Covid-19 Inquiry.**
- **Support at Safety Advisory Groups and Protective Security Preparedness Group - the concept of public spaces as potential targets is recognised at SAGs and is part of the risk assessment process. Event organisers and staff are aware of the potential impacts of Martyn's Law.**
- **Morfa Rhuddlan Community Flood Partnership - main area of focus has been consultation regarding proposed flood defences. Work ongoing with NRW and Licensing regarding caravan and holiday park evacuation arrangements.**
- **Conwy Valley Flood Partnership - Conwy Valley flood response will be aligned to outcomes of the reviews of the NRW Severe Weather Plan, Multi-Agency Flood Plan, Forward Command Post Plan and wider community resilience initiatives. The NWC-REPS Lead Officer for Conwy attends the NRW Severe Weather Group and assisted in the development of the Severe Weather Plan.**
- **The regional Emergency Rest Centre Plan was adapted to reflect Conwy service structures and approved. Relevant staff attended an exercise at Abergele Leisure Centre to assist in embedding the Plan.**

- **Civil Contingency eLearning packages were developed by NWC-REPS and are included in Conwy staff development programmes.**
- **EXERCISE BARDIC LLIF - scenario of a major flooding event in North Wales that resulted in an impact across the UK exhausting local and mutual aid resources. NWC-REPS and relevant staff from Conwy participated and liaised with the military to provide the appropriate response over the two-day exercise.**
- **InPhase - Workstreams and tasks from the Conwy work plan were integrated into the performance management framework to pilot the system.**
- **Mighty Oak - The Conwy Lead Officer was an observer at the three-day exercise/workshop held at the end of March and supported the development of a national response and recovery to a national power outage. The CCOG Chair and Assistant Flood Risk Manager attended for one day of the exercise.**

Planned work for 2023 to 2024

- **Review of Business Continuity Management and arrangements.**
- **Chair the Conwy Valley Flood Partnership working group to review arrangements for the multi-agency and community response to flooding.**
- **Review of coastal pollution plans.**
- **Review of emergency planning risk register and determine priorities for the year.**
- **Develop and implement a civil contingencies training and exercise programme for the senior leadership team.**
- **Provide support for the ongoing Covid19 Inquiry.**
- **Provide support and advice regarding the introduction of Martyn's Law and impact on the Local Authority and event organisers.**
- **Liaise with Welsh Water and establish emergency water distribution locations and protocols.**

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Work carried out during financial year 2022 to 2023

- **Operation Blue Opacity, Menai Suspension Bridge closure - On the 21st of October 2022, Welsh Government officials were advised by structural engineering experts working on behalf of UK Highways to close the A5 Menai Bridge to all traffic and pedestrians/cyclists whilst temporary works were installed over the following months. This led to monthly TCG meetings until its partial reopening in February. NWC-REPS were in attendance for every meeting. NWC-REPS provided its perspective on how it could respond to a major incident and supported both Anglesey and Gwynedd councils in its response and the following lessons learnt session.**
- **The Emergency Planning Working Group reconvened on 12th September 2022, holding its first meeting. Initially monthly, the meetings shifted to quarterly from January 2023. The group ensures the Council's emergency planning and business continuity arrangements are effective, managing key risks on behalf of the SLT. NWC-REPS aided in re-establishing the group and contributed to the discussions, including the introduction of their business continuity template. They conducted familiarisation sessions with service managers, explaining the template's functions and assisting with adapting it to the new format.**
- **On 12th July 2022, NWC-REPS hosted a rest centre exercise at Holyhead Leisure Centre as part of a regional tour. It evaluated standard rest centre procedures and the plan for responding to potential Ukrainian refugees from Ireland. The exercise involved LRF, North Wales Police, and Border Force, and was attended by leisure centre and social services staff, receiving positive feedback.**
- **All service-level business continuity plans based on the new template have been returned and awaiting approval**
- **Members' Emergency Handbook updated**
- **Improved management of the emergency contacts directory**
- **Mighty Oak - the Executive Manager attended the power outage exercise on the third day of the exercise while the EPO attended the first day**



- **Supported the Executive Manager and provided evidence collated by NWC-REPS for the Module 1 response of the Covid19 Inquiry**

Planned work for 2023 to 2024

- **All eLearning courses are now available, learning records will be integrated with the NWC-REPS training matrix**
- **Increase in Resilience Direct users due to updated and new plans available**
- **Implementing corporate volunteers currently being considered with SLT**
- **Work on the actions and challenges raised by Mighty Oak**

Gwynedd Council

Work carried out during 2022 to 2023

- **Establishment of four subgroups within the Strategic Panel, which have developed memberships and are meeting regularly to establish their Working Groups**
- **Major Emergency Arrangements have been approved by Strategic Panel and are being embedded**
- **Emergency Rest Centre Plan embedded and exercised at 3 sites in Gwynedd with positive feedback**
- **Creation of an on-call structure which has proved successful when responding to incidents and maintaining resilience**
- **Delivered a desktop walk through of a power outage scenario**
- **New service continuity templates have now been approved and are ready to be rolled out and any training needs to be identified**
- **Review of the Contact Directory following Exercise Cooper**
- **Mighty Oak - Gwynedd Head of Health and Safety was an observer at the 3-day exercise held at the end of March**
- **Event organisers and staff are now aware of Martyn's Law - The concept of public spaces as potential targets is recognised at SAGs and is part of the risk assessment process**

Planned work for 2023 to 2024

- **Standby arrangements training for Summer 2023**
- **Tabletop exercise for December 2023**
- **Provide support and guidance in the meetings of the sub groups**
- **Roll out of the new translated business continuity plans and embedding work**
- **Identify any training following the business continuity roll out**
- **Rest Centre training to be held in various locations**



Work carried out during 2022 to 2023

- **Major Emergency Arrangements approved by the Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT)**
- **Recovery Action Cards approved by the Recovery Team**
- **Emergency Rest Centre Plan embedded and exercised on the 10th August 2022**
- **eLearning packages are live and available to EMRT**
- **Rest Centre visits to review suitability of sites were undertaken. Following these visits site specific appendices were created for each Rest Centre that remained on the list**
- **Winter blackouts work completed including mapping Council buildings with the potential blackout time and days and sharing communications document. This work concluded with an EMRT exercise**
- **Support with the Covid-19 Inquiry including pulling evidence together for modules**
- **Updating of Emergency Contact Directory and alterations needed following Exercise Cooper and information from colleagues in Wrexham**
- **Resilience Direct review to ensure documents held are current and access is regularly reviewed with induction offered for new users**
- **The Service Continuity/Business Continuity Plan template has been approved. Assistance is being given to populate the documents**
- **Contribution for the BCUHB Suspect Package exercise providing advice, guidance and injects (This was subsequently cancelled but will be held in September 2023)**
- **EXERCISE BARDIC LLIF - scenario of a major flooding event in North Wales that resulted in an impact across the UK exhausting local and mutual aid resources. NWC-REPS and relevant staff from Wrexham participated and liaised with the military to provide the appropriate response over the two-day exercise**

Planned work for 2023 to 2024

- **Workplans to be embedded for each EMRT Group**
- **Transferal of Service/Business Continuity Plans to new templates and mini exercises to test each plan**
- **Following Service Continuity exercises with mini recovery exercises**
- **Training for Rest Centre staff who missed the exercise last year**
- **Review within NWC-REPS of Recovery and roll out any new templates/learning to Recovery group within Wrexham**
- **Support at Safety Advisory Groups**
- **Work around embedding the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill (Martyn's Law) when legislation is finalised. Draft information shared currently**



Denbighshire County Council

Work carried out during 2022 to 2023

- **Following COVID-19 the Emergency Planning structure has been re-established after COVID and meeting regularly every quarter**
- NWC-REPS have supported Denbighshire in several activities, such as:
 - **Recruitment and training of new loggists who are now prepared to support in incidents**
 - **Support with the Covid-19 Inquiry including pulling evidence together for modules**
- This year several plans and procedures have been amended, approved and are currently being embedded, these are:
 - **The Major Emergency Arrangements**
 - **Emergency Rest Centre Plan**
 - **Regional Business Continuity Plan approved and ready for implementation**
 - **Development and approval of a loggist and personal logging procedure**
- Several well received training sessions have taken place:
 - **Emergency Planning County Councillor briefing took place in September 2022**
 - **Lead Member for Emergency Planning briefing**
 - **Several new rest centre volunteers have been recruited and this led to a well-attended Rest Centre Exercise which took place in December 2022**
 - **A comprehensive suite of eLearning packages are live and have been rolled out across the SEMT teams**



Planned work for 2023 to 2024

- **Gold training sessions scheduled**
- **Live Rest Centre exercise**
- **Induction of new chairs and deputy chairs**
- **Test the Major Emergency Arrangements**
- **Implementation and testing of the new Business Continuity Plan**

Flintshire County Council

Work carried out during 2022 to 2023

- **Promotion of Resilience Direct site with Emergency Team Members**
- **Ratification of the Council's new Major Emergency Arrangements document**
- **Loggist Training - follow on practical training in FCC emergency team meetings for new loggists who completed LRF Loggist training and the NWC-REPS loggist eLearning module**
- **NWC-REPS support at EMRT for the response to Ukrainian Refugees**
- **Officer participation in Human Trafficking and Mass Fatalities Exercise, Holyhead Port on 6th September 2022**
- **Emergency Rest Centre Plan embedded following the Rest Centre exercise on 21st November 2022**
- **Engagement with Protective Security Preparedness Group and promotion of proposed legislation - Martyn's Law**
- **Participation in the Safety Advisory Group**
- **Storm Larissa - NWC-REPS support to EMRT stand up and management of response to snow event**
- **Mighty Oak national power outage exercise was attended by two Officers**
- **Winter Block Load power cut risk and associated NWC-REPS overview document promoted to Business Continuity Team and Chief Officers Team**
- **Emergency Transportation Plan Review by Operations Team**
- **Completion of Operations Team role in the LRF Emergency Bottled Water Distribution Plan (Identification and activation of Council owned car parks for bottled water distribution)**
- **Business Continuity Team Ransomware Awareness Workshop 16th March 2023**

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Planned work for financial year 2023 to 2024

- **Humanitarian Assistance Team planning for a follow up Rest Centre exercise planned for 10.08.23 for the team**
- **Embedding of Mass Fatalities Plan and the Emergency Operations Team role**
- **Supporting the emergency teams with the follow-on work from Storm Larissa Debrief Report and Incident Learning Action Plan**
- **Coastal Pollution planning**
- **Cyber-attack mitigation support with the Business Continuity Team**
- **Support with Asylum Seekers planning**

Nuclear and Pipeline Work

Work carried out during 2022 to 2023

- **Providing support for Anglesey & Gwynedd Councils on a national Nuclear Decommissioning Authority consultation**
- **Engagement with the Nuclear Protection Team within BEIS, who are supporting the revision of the regional local authority radiological emergency public information plan**
- **Environment Group: Participation in the newly created Lithium Ion Battery (Vehicle) Accident Task Finish Group**
- **Decommissioning of the Flintshire County Council Warwick Chemicals (Mostyn) Off-site Emergency Plan**

Planned work for 2023 to 2024

- **Attendance at the URENCO off-site emergency plan exercise, hosted by the Joint Cheshire Emergency Planning Team**
- **Kronospan (Chirk) exercise debrief report finalisation, to conclude the 2022 multi-agency emergency exercise work**
- **Development and delivery of Great Bear & FMC Agro's emergency exercise modular programme, and revision/re-issue of their off-site emergency plans**
- **Development and delivery of Synthite's on-site emergency control centre exercise**
- **Supporting Flintshire County Council's Planning Department with the council's response to the proposed Hynet Northwest Carbon Dioxide pipeline application**



Learning & Development

Work carried out during 2022 to 2023

JESIP

Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles

NWC-REPS is a key member of the JESIP planning and delivery group and assist in facilitating the Operational and Tactical packages.

Rest Centre Exercises

Following the successful roll out of the new Rest Centre Plan it required exercising to embed within all local authorities. The exercises were planned within designated Rest Centre venues across North Wales. The Exercise started with an introduction by the Local Resilience Forum Coordinator on the LRF's role during emergencies, followed by a presentation from North Wales Police and one from NWC-REPS before looking at the scenario based Exercise. The Exercise allowed participants to talk through issues that they may face when running a Rest Centre.

Following these Exercises, actions for each of the Lead Officers emerged and they are working with colleagues in their respective local authorities to complete these actions and preparedness should a Rest Centre be required.

LRF/Other Agency training/exercises:

- **JESIP Operational**
- **JESIP Tactical/Wales Silver**
- **Power Outage Exercise**
- **Public Inquiry**
- **Wales Gold**
- **Exercise Bardic Llif**



JESIP

Working Together – Saving Lives

Exercise Cooper

We undertake this exercise on a quarterly basis to test the local authority Emergency Contacts Directories. A total of 48 staff were randomly selected to check the accuracy of 107 contact numbers. Following this, changes were made to Emergency Contact Directories, checking numbers with local authority colleagues to ensure accuracy.

Planned work for 2023 to 2024

- **Development and roll out of a Coastal Pollution Plan Template**
- **Review of Recovery Arrangements in North Wales - consideration of one plan covering the LRF and the Local Authority responsibilities**
- **Implementation of a Performance Management System**
- **Linking into national work on Societal Resilience**
- **Ensure local authority preparedness for the proposed legislation, Martyn's Law**
- **Implementation of a staff training and exercising database**



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EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 21 st March 2024
Report Subject	Tackling the Impact of Inequality on Educational Outcomes
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education & Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been developed to give a further update to members since the overview report provided to the committee in May 2023.

Reducing the impact of inequality on educational outcomes is a high priority for national policy makers in Wales and across the UK.

The Council takes a cross-portfolio approach to tackling poverty and disadvantage. This is a key theme in the Council Plan for 2023-2028.

The Education and Youth Portfolio contributes to those priorities through its operational activity and support for schools. This report highlights some of the key actions taken and impact seen during this academic year to date.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Members confirm they have received a continued level of assurance regarding the work of the Education & Youth Portfolio in supporting schools to tackle the impact of poverty and disadvantage on their learners.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING HOW THE EDUCATION AND YOUTH PORTFOLIO CONTRIBUTES TO TACKLING THE IMPACT OF INEQUALITY ON EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES.
1.01	<p>Flintshire County Council recognises the significant impact that poverty, in its many forms, has on its children, young people, families and communities. This provides the rationale for the major focus on poverty through the strategic improvement priorities in the current Council Plan and in the revised plan for 2023-2028.</p> <p>The Council Plan sets out the Council’s priorities under six themes: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poverty• Affordable and Accessible Housing• Green Society and Environment• Economy• Personal and Community Well-being• Education and Skills <p>The Well-being Objective for Poverty is defined as ‘Protecting people from poverty by supporting them to meet their basic needs’. The areas contributing to achieving this are contained within the following five priorities: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Income Poverty• Child Poverty• Food Poverty• Fuel Poverty• Digital Poverty
1.02	<p>Indicators from examination performance in 2022/23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils in Wales who were not entitled to free school meals scored higher in the Capped 9 indicator (interim measures version) with 293.8 points than pupils eligible for free school meals with 382.6 points. The gap has widened since results in 2018/2019 from 77.3 points to 88.7 points.• Flintshire pupils who were not entitled to free school meals scored higher in the Capped 9 indicator (interim measures version) with 375.5 points than pupils eligible for free school meals with 287.4 points. The gap was slightly smaller at 88.1 points compared to the national gap of 88.8 points.• There is no comparative data for free school meal entitlement at A Level, as the number of such pupils in the cohort is too low to allow meaningful comparisons.
1.03	<p>The related priorities in the Council Plan covering the period 2023-2028 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encouraging further take up of the free school meals breakfast for year 7 pupils eligible for free school meals.• Contribute to the network of school uniform exchanges across the county supported by enhanced web and social media promotion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing free physical activity and well-being sessions within the summer Food and Fun programme (subject to funding)
1.04	<p>Encouraging further take up of the free school meals breakfast for year 7 pupils eligible for free school meals.</p> <p>The Education and Youth Portfolio encouraged schools to participate in this Welsh Government pilot scheme. The £450k pilot began in September 2020 across Wales to develop a model which enabled provision of a healthy and nutritious breakfast, free of charge for learners entitled to free school meals, before they commence their school day or during the morning break in secondary schools.</p> <p>By November 2022, 9 secondary schools in Flintshire were participating in the scheme and by the end of the academic year 2022-2023, all Flintshire secondary schools were engaged with this, supported by NEWydd Catering.</p> <p>This national pilot ended in July 2023 and the Welsh Government indicated that they were not able to afford to extend the programme further.</p>
1.05	<p>Contribute to the network of school uniform exchanges across the county supported by enhanced web and social media promotion.</p> <p>A baseline survey was completed with Flintshire schools during the summer term. This was a voluntary survey and not a statutory requirement. 30 schools replied to the survey and 21 of those indicated that they operated a uniform exchange scheme for their families.</p> <p>Examples of activities to support this work included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displaying a selection of preloved uniform at school events for parents to make a small donation for or take for free • Staff volunteers taking donated uniform home to wash and sort by size • Organising a school Christmas jumper exchange • Engaging with the local community to make access to uniform easier • Uniform Exchange rack outside of school entrance <p>This enabled the Council to establish a better understanding of uniform exchange schemes across the county and help plan our future support strategy more effectively (funding dependent). Bespoke support through the Councils' Revenue and Benefits team was focused at secondary schools during the summer term. The Council website has been updated to provide information regarding these pre-loved uniform exchange schemes.</p>
1.06	<p>Food and Fun Programme Summer 2023</p> <p>The Food and Fun scheme has been delivered by Flintshire County Council for 5 years, in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr and the Welsh Local Government Association.</p> <p>This year, over 300 primary and secondary age children took part between July 24th and August 10th, 2023.</p>

	<p>Over the 12 days of the programme, the children participated in a broad range of engaging activities focused on health, happiness, and wellbeing. Children attending enjoyed a healthy breakfast, snack and a hot lunch provided each day by NEWydd Catering.</p> <p>Aura Leisure delivered a wide variety of sporting activities and interactive games alongside a broad offer of enrichment activities coordinated by each school. In the feedback received from the children, dodgeball, circus skills and parachute games all proved popular this year.</p> <p>Children learnt about nutrition and healthy diets, gained new cookery skills and enjoyed food tasting sessions. Harlech Foodservice in partnership with Newydd Catering supplied a food bag for each child during the third week of the programme with a range of ingredients to encourage families to get cooking over the holidays.</p> <p>Food and Fun enables families to benefit from structure during the summer holidays. It helps parents with meeting childcare costs and offers paid employment to local people which is hugely beneficial for all communities.</p> <p>Participating schools in 2023 after successfully delivering the programme in previous years were: Ysgol Bryn Garth, Ysgol Bryn Gwalia, Ysgol Gronant, Ysgol Glan Aber, Queensferry Primary School, Ysgol Maesglas, Connahs Quay High School and Ysgol Treffynnon.</p> <p>St David’s High School, Saltney and Flint High School also reintroduced the programme this year.</p> <p>The number of schools participating has continued to grow and during the 2023 summer holidays Ysgol Pen Coch, Ysgol Maes Hyfryd, and Argoed High School, introduced the scheme for the first time. Preparations are now underway for summer 2024.</p>
1.07	<p>Charter for Change; Protecting Welsh Children from the Impact of Poverty - ‘Cofia Ceri’/ ‘Check with Ceri’.</p> <p>During the Flintshire Headteacher Conference of March 2020, a commitment was made by the Council to promote resources provided by the Commissioner’s office to address issues of poverty with our schools. At the Conference, the then Children’s Commissioner for Wales introduced her Charter for Change; Protecting Welsh Children from the Impact of Poverty. All schools signed a pledge at the conference to adopt this approach.</p> <p>The resource produced by the Commissioner, “Check with Ceri”, is an assessment tool for schools to consider the financial impact additional activities routinely undertaken in schools can have on families.</p> <p>The Council has re-launched the resource for this academic year, now that schools have settled back into normal operations after the covid pandemic.</p> <p>The resource asks schools to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage children and young people in their school to ‘put themselves in Ceri’s shoes’ and think about all of the costs around the school day

and over the school year for those living in poverty and the stigma that is felt by those who cannot afford to participate.

- Create a 'Ceri's Champion' role within their school. This could be someone within the school's governing body, or within the school staff body, who takes a lead on analysing the costs of the school day and over the school year to populate a 'calendar of costs', and create an action plan to reduce the financial burden on families.

It also asks schools to take account of issues such as:

- Stigma of living in poverty and social pressures
- Food at school - considering schemes like breakfast clubs, and actions to improve the take-up of free school meals by eligible children and young people in school.
- Sanitary, hygiene and health products
- School uniform and clothing
- Equipment required for school
- Access to technology
- School trips
- Special events
- Fundraising
- Budgeting, life skills and school savings schemes

Schools have been asked to provide feedback on how they have been able to use this resource. Responses to date have included:

- Presentations to school staff on these key issues
- Systems in place to offer learners entitled to free school meals (eFSM) discounted prices on non-curricular trips
- Involvement by schools in the Children's University scheme with particular support for eFSM pupils to be able to engage
- Equipment bank available for eFSM pupils to access including loaning of digital equipment
- One school used the resource with their School Council for Christmas Jumper Day. They planned for all children to make a Christmas t-shirt as an alternative to purchasing new jumpers. The School Council planned this knowing that some of their classmates might not have a Christmas jumper, and were not able to afford one.
- Another school runs its own social supermarket where all members of the community can shop for food on a pay as you feel basis, many families access free food in this way. They also provide food bank vouchers. The school provides free haircuts for families in need of this service and toiletries and self-care assistance for older pupils that need support to develop these skills independently. A team of parent support advisors also provide families with support and guidance around budgeting, accessing benefits, housing advice etc.

The Education and Youth Portfolio will continue to promote the use of this resource, alongside consideration of these important issues, at its regular meetings with Headteacher Federations.

1.08	<p>Schools in Flintshire continue to make effective use of the Pupil Development Grant provided by Welsh Government.</p> <p>Estyn reports for Flintshire schools continue to include references to the positive use of this funding. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ysgol Croes Atti (October 2023) <i>Leaders have purposeful arrangements for managing financial resources and are aware of the importance of trying to reduce the effect of poverty on pupils' achievement. They use the pupil development grant suitably to improve the standards and attendance of specific groups of pupils, for example by planning and implementing 'teulu time' family sessions. As a result, opportunities for parents to engage with the school are good.</i> • Ysgol Derwen (October 2023) <i>Leaders use the pupil development grant wisely to provide specific interventions across the school by staff, which provides beneficial support for pupils to improve their learning.</i> • Queensferry Primary School (November 2023) <i>The school monitors and allocates the pupil development grant and other grant funding carefully, ensuring that a range of intervention strategies are available to support identified pupils.</i> • Ysgol Bryn Gwalia (December 2023) <i>Effective use is made of the pupil development grant to provide interventions for pupils eligible for free school meals or from low-income households. This has led to improvements in the well-being, attendance and the progress of most of these pupils.</i>
1.09	<p>Community Focused Schools</p> <p>Flintshire has used grant funding to support the implementation of the Community Focused Schools initiative. The decision was taken to retain the funding centrally so that a team could be developed to target those areas with the highest levels of deprivation. The areas of Saltney, Holywell and Queensferry have been identified for access to this intervention. A community hub has been established in St David's High School to support collaboration between the school and the service.</p> <p>The Community Focused Team supported the delivery of the Food and Fun initiatives in 2 of the schools linked to their areas of focus and this has provided an opportunity to build and develop relationships with families in those communities. Further activities have been undertaken including community lunches involving a range of local residents including parents, town councillors, community groups and church groups. A number of collaborative projects are either underway or in planning, which include delivering a range of engagement activities to reduce the levels of anti-social behaviour in town centres and the development of a Community Growing Garden. The team are also actively involved in working with individual pupils and their families to secure improved attendance and overall attainment.</p>

1.10	<p>Central Services</p> <p>Central services within the Education & Youth portfolio also provide advice and support to families to access appropriate benefits and services that they may be entitled to. Services such as the English as an Additional Language service facilitate translation and interpretation of forms to support access appropriate benefits. Prevention of children becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) is also a priority for the portfolio. The Progression Service works closely with individuals who are known to be at risk of becoming NEET and potentially economically inactive, providing targeted and individualised support to access a range of engagement activities and accreditation. Similarly, Youth Services offer a range of experiences to young people, including those who may be disadvantaged. The service is building in a number of pathways that enable young people to build on positive experiences and access a range of accreditation to support them on a career pathway. The Youth Leader award is an integral part of the offer, but other examples include a young person recently qualifying as a ski leader. These opportunities are important for all our children and young people and especially those who find engagement with formal education challenging.</p>
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>The Pupil Development Grant is based on school's FSM levels. Support for schools ensure effective use of the PDG comes through the interaction between schools and their individual Supporting Improvement Adviser, through professional learning events and via the national learning platform Hwb. There are no financial implications arising from this report.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<p>There are no specific risks arising from this report and subsequent actions.</p> <p>The Council undertook a review of its Well-being Objectives during the development of the Council Plan. This includes a theme of poverty which is woven through individual portfolios to ensure a cross-council approach.</p> <p>The Council's Education Portfolio has a detailed risk assessment which outlines key risks related to the delivery of education services and method statements which describe how these risks are managed. These are regularly reported to the Education, Youth and Culture Overview Scrutiny Committee.</p>

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	<p>Regular discussions are held between Education Officers and the Flintshire Headteacher Federations to ensure that tackling the impact of poverty remains a key focus for the Portfolio. This information is used to inform the Portfolio's ongoing cycle of self-evaluation and improvement.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	There are no appendices to this report.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Wales' Child Poverty Strategy; Progress Report 2022 https://www.gov.wales/child-poverty-strategy-2022-progress-report-html</p> <p>Inequalities in GCSE results across England and Wales September 2022 https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/inequalities-in-gcse-results-across-england-and-wales/</p> <p>Estyn Annual Report 2021 -2022 https://annual-report.estyn.gov.wales/annual_report/tackling-the-impact-of-poverty-and-disadvantage/</p> <p>Flintshire Inspection report 2019 https://www.estyn.gov.wales/provider/6649999</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Vicky Barlow, Senior Manager for School Improvement Telephone: 01352 704054 Cymraeg/ Welsh 01267 224923 E-mail: vicky.barlow@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>Disadvantaged – Pupils are classed as disadvantage if they were eligible for free school meals in the past six years</p> <p>Persistently disadvantaged- Pupils considered persistently disadvantaged if they were eligible for free school meals for 80 per cent of their time in education.</p> <p>Pupil Development Grant (PDG)and Early Years Pupil Development Grant (EYPDG) – grant funding for schools and local authorities to improve outcomes for learners eligible for free school meals (eFSM), eligible learners in Early Years settings where Foundation Phase is delivered and children who are looked after by the local authority.</p> <p>Council Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 for organisations to ‘set out any actions to increase the extent to which the council is meeting the performance requirements.’ Plans for organisations should be robust; be clear on where it wants to go; and how it will get there.</p>