

**JOINT EDUCATION & YOUTH AND SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting	Thursday 25 th July, 2019
Report Subject	Safeguarding in Education Self Evaluation Report
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Flintshire County Council Education Services for Children and Young People were inspected by Estyn during the week commencing 3rd June 2019.

A Self-Evaluation for Safeguarding in Education was submitted to Estyn prior to the inspection which details how the local authority fulfils its Safeguarding and Child Protection responsibilities at an operational, support and strategic level. The Self-Evaluation also highlights areas of good practice and areas for further development.

The judgement by Estyn on the quality of Safeguarding and Child Protection services within the education portfolio cannot be disclosed until the publication of the full inspection report of education services in Flintshire which is due on August 9th 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Members of both Committees are able to formulate an objective overview of Safeguarding in Education in Flintshire and draw their conclusions and recommendations based on the information in the Self-Evaluation and discussion at the meeting.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND
1.01	<p>Local authorities have responsibilities for safeguarding at three levels in the education services it provides directly or commissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic for example planning; co-ordinating delivery of services; allocating resources; and working in partnership with other agencies.• Support for example ensuring education providers are aware of their responsibilities for child protection; monitoring their performance; provide appropriate training, model policies and procedures; provide advice and support; and facilitating links and co-operation with other agencies.• Operational for example by taking responsibility for safeguarding children who are excluded from school, or who have not obtained a school place or who are educated in PRUs or EOTAS; involvement in dealing with allegations of professional abuse; and ensuring arrangements are in place to prevent unsuitable staff and volunteers from working with children.
1.02	<p>Estyn Inspectors discussed the Safeguarding Self-Evaluation information provided with key officers during the inspection in order to determine whether the local authority's arrangements for safeguarding pupils meet requirements and give no cause for concern, or do not meet requirements and give serious cause for concern.</p>
1.03	<p>Inspectors will have evaluated how well the local authority fulfils its statutory responsibilities relating to safeguarding, which will be published in the final report scheduled for mid-August 2019.</p>
1.04	<p>Estyn will send electronic copies of the final report to the Chief Executive of the local authority, the Chief Education Officer, the Council Leader, the elected member with main responsibility for education, and the Chair of Education Scrutiny. Estyn will also send a copy of the report to the Wales Audit Office and publish the report on the inspectorate's website.</p>
1.05	<p>As the outcome of the inspection has to remain confidential until the final report is published in August, the details of the findings on safeguarding cannot yet be shared.</p>
1.06	<p>As part of its own quality assurance procedures, the Chief Officer for Education and Youth requested that the portfolio's Self-Evaluation Report on Safeguarding and Child Protection be reviewed by a director with responsibility for safeguarding in a neighbouring authority. The feedback from the director was, that in their professional opinion, the document was comprehensive, met statutory requirements and exemplified a very positive range of work undertaken by the portfolio to ensure the safeguarding of children and young people in Flintshire.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Safeguarding is a core responsibility of everybody who works for the Local Authority. Delivering the commitments contained within the self-evaluation report are within existing human and financial resources.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	None required.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	There are no specific risks arising from this report and subsequent actions.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Self-Evaluation Form for Inspecting Safeguarding and Child Protection in LAESCYP.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>Keeping Learners Safe (2016) Guidance for local authorities and governing bodies on arrangements for safeguarding children.</p> <p>https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-11/keeping-learners-safe-the-role-of-local-authorities-governing-bodies-and-proprietors-of-independent-schools-under-the-education-act-2002.pdf</p> <p>Contact Officer: Claire Sinnott, Learning Advisor – Health, Wellbeing & Safeguarding Telephone: 01352 704054 E-mail: Claire.sinnott@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>LAESCYP - Local Authority Education Services for Children and Young People</p> <p>EOTAS – Education Other Than At School</p> <p>PRU – Pupil Referral Unit</p>