



Area Schools Review

Holywell Area

Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron



Introduction

The Welsh Government and Flintshire County Council want to make efficiencies and reduce surplus places to enable more available funding to be spent directly on children and young people's education in schools.

The review of schools in the Holywell, Queensferry/Shotton/Connah's Quay and Buckley/Mynydd Isa/Mold areas is the next stage in Flintshire's School Modernisation Strategy and aims to address significant numbers of surplus places.

The area reviews will consist of three stages:

- the informal consultation process (which is where we are now),
- a period of reflection when councillors will decide on preferred options for each of the three areas
- the formal statutory stage

The Next Steps section of this booklet, which can be found on page 9, explains the process in a little more detail.

During the Summer of 2011 informal consultations began around future arrangements for Secondary Schools in these areas. Whilst it was understood by all that there was a need to review the future of schools in Flintshire, County Councillors halted the process so that they could do further work on the options for consideration before re-opening the consultation process.

Following a number of workshops held over the autumn Councillors now have renewed confidence in inviting your views and opinions on the options contained in this booklet.



Consultation

A meeting will be held to discuss the option to amalgamate the existing Infant and Junior Schools into one primary school for pupils aged 4 to 11, and to provide this in a new school building on the site of Holywell High School.

You may also already be aware that Welsh Government has, in principle, approved funding for a new learning campus in Holywell and a Post-16 facility adjacent to Connah's Quay High School and Deeside College, but any final decisions are dependent on the outcome of consultations with parents, teachers, staff, pupils and governors of affected schools.

A number of meetings will be held for both Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron to discuss these options. On page 12 you will find more details about the dates and times and how the meetings will be run. Consultations with children and young people will be arranged separately.

There are a number of ways you can let us know what you think. You can:

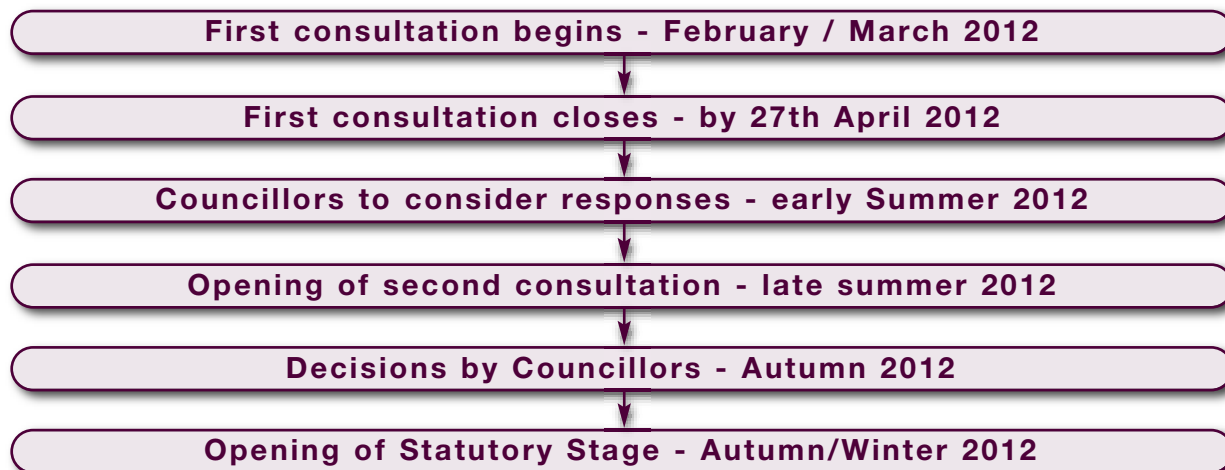
- ask questions and let us know your views at these meetings
- put your responses in writing to the Director of Lifelong Learning, Area Schools Review, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire. CH7 6ND
- complete a questionnaire and return it to the Director of Lifelong Learning, Area Schools Review, County Hall, Mold, Flintshire. CH7 6ND; **or**
- complete a questionnaire on-line at www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview



The consultation will close on Friday 27 April 2012. Your views are important to us and they will help to inform any future decisions we make. The decisions made by Councillors will be based on well thought out views and opinions that meet the future needs of Holywell.

After reading this document, as a parent or carer, you may already have questions you will want to ask at the event. You can, if you wish, put your questions forward before the event. We will then pull all these questions together and provide answers during the presentations. You can email your questions to 21stCenturySchools@flintshire.gov.uk. You can ask your question on the FCC Area Schools Review 2012 Facebook page, or you can put your question in writing to the address shown above. **Please be sure to make clear which area or school your question is about.**

How long will this take?



See page 9 for more detailed information



Background leading to the consultation

Holywell High School has significant surplus places. One option for consideration is the building of a new smaller High school, and to share some of the facilities with a new primary school. These shared facilities would include things like: kitchen facilities, support services, drama studio, etc.

The current infant and junior schools provide high quality education, but the sites of both schools are small and do not have the best outside facilities for activities like games and general play. Access to the schools is poor for both pupils and staff, and there is not enough parking.

It is a policy of the Council to amalgamate infant and junior schools into single Primary Schools. A number of successful amalgamations have been completed in the last two years.



Options

To improve these schools, the following options have been put forward by Council members:

Option One

- Reduce the size of Holywell High School.

This will mean that part of the building will be demolished and/or parts used for other purposes, such as office accommodation for private tenants.

In this option there would be no change for Ysgol Perth y Terfyn or Ysgol y Fron. They would continue to be separate schools and would stay in their existing buildings.

There is no funding from Welsh Government for this option. The Council would have to pay approximately £13m. This is the approximate total cost for this work.

Option Two

- Build a new high school for pupils aged 11-18, together with a new primary school to replace Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron.

This would involve the replacement of Holywell High School with a new smaller building on the existing site. The school would keep its sixth form.

This option would also involve closing both Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron. It would join both schools together as a new primary school in a new primary school building on the existing Holywell High School site.

There is no funding from Welsh Government to develop this option. The Council would have to pay £34m which is all of the costs of building the new schools.



Option Three

- Build a new high school for pupils aged 11-16, together with a new primary school to replace Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol Y Fron

This would involve the replacement of Holywell High School with a new smaller building. Sixth form courses would be held at a new purpose built Post- 16 facility at Connah's Quay.

This option would also involve closing both Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron. It would join both schools together as a new primary school in a new primary school building on the existing Holywell High School site.

The design of the new schools would include accommodation and facilities that could be used by the whole community. This option would involve working with other partners such as Deeside College, Glyndwr University, Adult Education, etc. to provide strong links with all sections of the community.

It is this final option that has been approved in principle for funding by the Welsh Government, as it meets the criteria for not only providing schools for the 21st Century, but also in rationalising the Post-16 provision, which are priorities for the Council and the Welsh Government.

If this option were to be approved Welsh Government has indicated its willingness in principle to contribute £15.5m towards the cost of building the new schools. This is half of the total cost. The Council would need to pay the other half.

Welsh Government has indicated its willingness in principle to contribute £6.6m towards the cost of building a new Post-16 facility in Connah's Quay. This is half of the total cost.



Options (continued)

It is important that the Council improves its school buildings and makes them fit for the 21st century. Welsh Government is also committed to improving schools across Wales. Welsh Government will only help councils with funding where there are plans to replace schools with new buildings or where existing schools can be extended and improved to provide modern facilities. Any new development would need to be flexible both for changes in the way education may be provided in the future and to include the latest technology for learning.



If councillors decided to go forward with one of the options that Welsh Government is unable to fund, the Council would then have to prioritise its own funding, alongside all its other financial commitments, and think about how it could raise the funds needed.

The option to amalgamate and build a new primary school could only be approved if the decision is taken to build a new high school. This is because both new schools would be built on the same site and would share some facilities.

The new school would be built for 280 pupils plus a nursery facility. This would be big enough to take the number of pupils that statistics tell us may want to go there in the next 15 to 20 years. This takes account of things like new housing developments. The ability to extend the building if needed in the future would be included as part of the design.

As most pupils travel to the existing primary schools on foot, there would be no substantial changes in the transport arrangements for a new school. However, facilities would be provided for buses and cars on a new site that would safely keep traffic and pedestrians apart.

Travel arrangements

If, as a result of any school reorganisation, pupils were required to travel to another location, the Council would make appropriate arrangements for those pupils who are already registered at the affected school

Next Steps

This stage is the initial consultation. The views and opinions you put forward will be gathered together and will be considered by councillors in the early summer when they will decide whether to move on to the next stage of consultation.

A second stage of consultation will be held during late summer before Councillors make any final decision. You will be told before this second stage begins.

After the second consultation, Councillors will then decide if they want to continue with one single proposal. If they decide to do this we will then enter the statutory stage. During this statutory period the details of one single proposal will be clearly set out and you will be given one month to put forward any written objections you may have.

If the Council receives just one objection at this stage, then the matter will be handed over to Welsh Ministers in Welsh Government who will make the final decision.



Glossary

Amalgamation - This is where two or more schools are closed and are then joined together to make one new school with one headteacher and one governing body. In Holywell the new primary school would be in one single new building on the site of the existing Holywell High School.

Surplus Places - Some school buildings are too big for the number of pupils who attend them. Welsh Government says schools should not have more than 10% surplus places overall. This means if a school is big enough to take 500 pupils then it shouldn't have less than 450 pupils registered to attend it.



Rationalise Post - 16 provision - Welsh Government says that sixth forms must be able to provide at least 30 different subjects that students can choose to study. Welsh Government provides schools with funding for sixth forms. They do this by giving the school a set amount of money for each student who registers to study at its sixth form. The less pupils who register, the less money the school receives. The Council's School Modernisation Strategy says that for a sixth form to be viable it should have at least 120 students.

Post 16 Centre - Welsh Government has agreed in principle to fund a new sixth form facility in Flintshire that would provide students with the choice of a full range of subjects to study, and access to a wide range of facilities, all at one location. There has been agreement between councillors, schools and Deeside College that Connah's Quay would be the best geographical location to provide this facility, although no final decisions have yet been taken.

Learning Campus - The creation of new and modern school buildings on one site, that share some facilities, make the most of new technology and provide a place that can be used by the whole community.

21st Century Schools - Welsh Government, working with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), wants to raise the standards of education in Wales to a world class level. To do this Wales needs modern school buildings, with the very latest technology, that inspire children, young people and the wider community to learn.

Flintshire School Modernisation Strategy - this is a document that has been adopted by councillors that sets out the challenges that face the Council in developing its schools into places that are fit for the 21st Century.

Other documents & Information

Other Area Schools Review documents

Documents for each of the three Area Schools Reviews can be found on the Council's website www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview

Holywell area – Holywell High School

Holywell area – Ysgol Perth y Terfyn and Ysgol y Fron

Buckley area – Elfed High School and Westwood Primary School

Queensferry, Shotton, Connah's Quay area – Connah's Quay High School and John Summers High School

Where to find other useful information

Flintshire 14-19 Learning Partnership – Strategic Outline Case

Guide to Education Services

School Modernisation Information Pack

School Modernisation Strategy

The documents above are all available on the Council's website www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview or by contacting the Lifelong Learning Directorate on 01352 704011.

Other useful websites

21st Century Schools – available via link from Flintshire County Council's website

www.flintshire.gov.uk/areaschoolsreview or directly at www.21stcenturyschools.org



Consultation Meetings

Venue	Invitees	Date	Time	Type of Meeting
Ysgol y Fron	<i>Ysgol Perth y Terfyn & Ysgol y Fron Teaching and Support Staff</i>	14/3/2012	3.45pm	<i>Meeting with senior officers of the Council with time for questions</i>
	<i>Ysgol Perth y Terfyn & Ysgol y Fron Governors</i>	14/3/2012	5.30pm	<i>Meeting with senior officers of the Council with time for questions</i>
	<i>Parents/Carers of pupils at Ysgol Perth y Terfyn & Ysgol y Fron</i>	14/3/2012	6.30pm	<i>See programme below</i>

Information for Parents/Carers

- As a parent or carer of pupil(s) at Ysgol Perth y Terfyn, and Ysgol y Fron, you are invited to attend the events shown above.
- You should attend the event which is most suited to you and your child(ren).
- At your meeting you can choose to attend one of two presentations when you can ask questions.
- The timings of the presentations are shown below. **The two presentations will be exactly the same.** You don't have to book, just come along at the time that suits you best.
- An informal listening area will also be available. Council officers will be on hand to answer questions. This area may appeal to people who prefer a less formal meeting. It will also be available to people who have attended a presentation and may want to speak more informally with council officers.

PROGRAMME	
18.30	<i>Presentation by senior council officers and councillors</i>
18.50	<i>Questions</i>
19.20	<i>Close of first presentation</i>
19.30	<i>Repeat of presentation by senior council officers and councillors</i>
20.20	<i>Close of second presentation</i>
21.00	<i>Close of event</i>

18.30 **Informal Listening Area**

Senior officers and councillors will be on hand to answer questions in a more informal setting.

21.00