

CABINET

Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held in the Town Hall, Rhyl on Tuesday, 30th July, 2002 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT

Councillors P.A. Dobb, Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing; E.C. Edwards, Lead Member for Safeguarding our Communities; M.A. German, Lead Member for Sustainable Development and Environment; R.W. Hughes, Lead Member for Lifelong Learning; G.M. Kensler, Lead Member for Promoting Denbighshire, D.M. Morris, Lead Member for Communications; J.A. Smith, Lead Member for Social Inclusion; W.R. Webb, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management, and E.W. Williams, Leader and Member for Economic Wellbeing.

Observers: Councillors M.LI. Davies, S. Drew, G. Jones and R.J.R. Jones.

ALSO PRESENT

Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive / Corporate Director of Resources, Financial Controller and the Legal Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Councillor E.A. Owens Lead Member for Finance.

1 URGENT MATTERS

The Leader of the Council gave notice of the following items which in his opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972:-

[i] Minutes: 5 June 2002- Minute 71: Draft Bus Strategy - Correction

[ii] WLGA Conference Llandudno, 5/6 September, 2002 - representation

2 MINUTES OF THE CABINET [CABINET 2002 - 141]

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 July 2002 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 July 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Leader.

3 SCALA FEASIBILITY STUDY [CABINET 2002 - 142]

Councillor G.M. Kensler presented the report seeking Cabinet's consideration of its contents and that of the attached appendices. She sought Members' approval for the recommendations contained in the report.

The Leader commended the report for its clarity and for its forward planning. Councillor M.A. German, who had previously served as Chair of the Scala Advisory Group, said that there was a determination in the community to safeguard the Scala's future. Councillor D.M. Morris concurred by stating that it was essential to maintain a cinema / arts complex and community facility on the site for the future. Councillor R.W. Hughes thanked the County Council for deciding 18 months previously to take action and to involve the wider public at every stage. The Chief Executive referred Members in particular to the recommendation calling for a detailed development study which could possibly lead to the creation of a new 'not for profit' organisation

aimed at driving the proposed project forward. Councillor G.M. Kensler proposed the recommendations for approval en bloc and upon being put to the vote her proposal was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

- (a) supports the need for an arts cinema and community facility in Prestatyn;
- (b) evaluates in detail the recommendation by the independent consultants that the facility should be developed on the existing Scala site and also to consider and consult upon options that have come to light since the independent consultant's report was prepared;
- (c) supports the need for a more detailed development study, including establishing a new 'not for profit' organisation within the next year to drive the project forward and to subsequently manage the facility;
- (ch) provides the necessary officer support to assist the new organisation;
- (d) clearly identifies through the development study the level of revenue grant which would be required to sustain the facility having regard to the need to limit the Council's long-term financial contribution, and
- (dd) aims to complete the project within 3 years with regular reports on progress to be submitted to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee.

4 HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION [HMO] REGISTRATION SCHEME [CABINET 2002 - 143]

Councillor P.A. Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet approval of the proposed consultation with local landlords, Landlord Associations and other interested parties on the proposals put forward in this report with a report back to Cabinet in September 2002 on the comments received.

Councillor Dobb detailed the form in which the consultation would take place according to a strict timetable and sought approval in principle to implementation of Phase II within West Rhyl as defined in Appendix I to the report including a registration fee of £60 per habitable room (holiday accommodation benefiting from a reduced rate) and the recruitment of additional dedicated Housing Enforcement Officers.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

- (a) approves consultation with local landlords, Landlord Associations and other interested parties in accordance with paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2 in the report with a report back in September 2002;
- (b) approves in principle subject to paragraph 1.1 in the report to implement Phase II of the registration scheme with control provisions on a programmed basis within the West Rhyl area as defined in the map set out in Appendix I to the report;
- (c) authorises additional staffing to be recruited in accordance with para 3.1 and 4.1 subject to sufficient finances being identified through the bidding process, and
- (ch) seeks approval to register holiday accommodation at a reduced cost as part of the registration scheme with control provisions.

5 REVENUE BUDGET 2002/03 [CABINET 2002 - 144]

The Corporate Director: Resources presented the report for Members' consideration of the proposed actions necessary to contain service expenditure within the overall budget for the year

in the light of the latest budget performance figures as detailed in the appendices attached to the report.

The Director emphasized the continued need for caution and emphasized the importance of adhering to the discipline called for in the Council's Recovery Plan to achieve targets e.g. the accumulation in the current financial year of balances of £1m. The Financial Controller referred to details in the report and appendices thereto and said that it was important to examine likely pressures with particular attention being paid to factors such as numbers of posts being submitted for external recruitment.

Members agreed that it was important to maintain the progress achieved within the requirements of the agreed Recovery Plan and supported the recommendations contained in the report. However, Councillor W.R. Webb, with reference to the Recovery Plan, sought additional information on structures and total staff numbers. He expressed concern that current systems were not in place to provide the information necessary for Members to obtain the full picture. He therefore proposed that discussion on certain aspects of the report in this regard be held with the Press and Public excluded. This was agreed.

Exclusion of Press and Public:-

Resolved: *under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for discussion on the remainder of this item.*

Subject to the foregoing discussion:

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

- (a) *notes the figures in the appendices and considers necessary remedial actions to ensure that balances of £1.0m are achieved by the end of the current financial year;*
- (b) *notes that all external appointments, with the exception of statutory or business critical posts as agreed by the Chief Executive, are deferred for a three month period, at which time the financial position of the Council will be further reviewed. Externally funded posts are excluded;*
- (c) *requests all services to develop proposals for a 0.5% budget saving (inclusive of (b)) above by mid-August 2002, for consideration at the Cabinet meeting in September, and*
- (ch) *requests report back in September 2002.*

(At this stage of the meeting Cabinet resumed in public session with Press and Public in attendance)

6 CAPITAL PLAN 2002/03 [CABINET 2002 - 145]

The Corporate Director: Resources presented the report to advise Members of progress with the Capital Plan, taking account of the 2001/02 Out-turn position and suggested measures required to ensure that proposed spending be contained within the level of resources available.

The Corporate Director said that it was appropriate to re-consider the approved Capital Plan in the light of the 2001/2002 Out-turn which had recently been finalised. In particular, he highlighted slippage in schemes commenced but not sufficiently progressed in 2001/2002, payments for which would now fall into 2002/2003. He also referred to additional pressures directly resulting from the cost of fees relating to the Ruthin Offices PFI project (£200k greater than anticipated in 2001/2002 and an extra £200k on top of the estimated £200k in 2002/2003). It was also recommended that £200k should be diverted to undertake priority Health and Safety Capital Schemes. The generation of capital receipts remained the only real means available to accommodate spending in excess of the NAFW's General Capital Funding for the year.

Councillor P.A. Dobb's disappointment about the PFI fees were echoed by the Leader and Councillor R.W. Hughes. The Corporate Director said that the protracted negotiations had over the last few months been caught up in detail and had not been helped by other factors beyond the control of the Council e.g. amendments to legislation which at the end of the day were likely to be of little benefit to the Council in the context of the entire scheme.

In reply to a question asked by Councillor E.C. Edwards, the Corporate Director agreed with the suggestion to a proposal to examine capital expenditure in relation to Area Partnerships. Such analysis could be built in from this financial year onwards. It would be more difficult to examine revenue expenditure, although it was felt that this should also be investigated.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

- (a) maintains the drive to generate capital receipts, and
- (b) approves deferment of new schemes from within existing Block Allocations until sufficient capital receipts have been generated in order to accommodate the £600k pressure arising from the PFI Scheme and Health and Safety requirements; the amounts involved are to be re-instated when sufficient capital receipts have been generated; The Block Allocations being amended as follows:-

<i>Block Allocation</i>	<i>Existing Block Allocation</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
	<i>£000s</i>	<i>£000s</i>
<i>School Buildings</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>900</i>
<i>Highways Structural Maint.</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>800</i>
<i>Housing Improv. Grants</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>1,900</i>
<i>Community Projects</i>	<i>430</i>	<i>330</i>

At this juncture (11.30 a.m) the meeting adjourned for 15 minutes to allow Members to participate in refreshments.

**7 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE AND WELLBEING
[CABINET 2002 - 146]**

Councillor P.A. Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet approval of Stage 1 of proposals to develop a Strategic Partnership for Health, Social Care and Well-being through the establishment of a Strategic Partnership Board, as detailed in the Appendices to the report.

In proposing approval for the recommendations in the report, Councillor Dobb highlighted the structural changes which were taking place in Wales leading to the establishment and funding of Local Health Boards, greater emphasis being placed on strategic partnerships between local authorities and a range of partners in health and well-being and on a whole range of community governance issues reflected in recent statutory guidance (Community Strategy-Local Government Act 2000, the Learning and Skills Act, Children and Young Person's Framework Guidance etc.). In a move which is consistent with all these parallel developments is a proposed structure for a Strategic Partnership Board for Health, Social Care and Well-Being (with a linked Lead Officer Group) as outlined in the report.

The proposal reflects opinion voiced in consultation that such a strategic partnership body would assist in dealing with potential tensions and differences which might result during the process of delivery between those primarily focused on the health/social care agenda and those focusing more on the "broader determinants of health" such as environmental, social and economic issues. With NHS structural changes likely to be fully in place by 2003 and shadow Local Health Boards in place by Autumn 2002 it seems rational to move towards a shadow structure for health social care and well-being partnerships to a similar time-scale. The first 5-year Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategies will be required in draft for public

consultation by 1 October 2003 and finalized by 31 March 2004, hence the need for implementation. The report sought approval for Stage 1 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The appendix set out proposals for membership, organization of meetings and the basis for setting up the Lead Officer Group. Stage 1 in the process would involve the establishment of the Strategic Partnership Board who would itself determine at a later stage the detail of which planning groups would then report to it. Three County Council executive member nominations were proposed for membership to the Strategic Board for Health and Well-being in Stage 1 namely Councillors P.A. Dobb, J.A. Smith and E.C. Edwards. Subject to the foregoing discussion, it was:-

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves:-

- (a) *Stage 1 of proposals to develop a Strategic Partnership for Health and Well-being i.e. the development of a Strategic Partnership Board with the initial membership as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and*
- (b) *the nomination of Councillors P.A. Dobb, J.A. Smith and E.C. Edwards to serve on the Strategic Partnership Board.*

8 IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT UPDATE [CABINET 2002 - 147]

Councillor D.M. Morris presented the report and Appendices to update Members on Implementing Electronic Government, as previously requested by Cabinet.

Councillor Morris said that the Council had already approved IEG and requested that owing to its importance, progress reports be submitted on a quarterly basis in order for it to take decisions should there be any slippages. The IEG report, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, was on target with no slippages.

RESOLVED that Cabinet continues to fully recognise and support the importance of Implementing Electronic Government

9 REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTION FROM REQUIREMENT TO REPAY GRANT AID PAID IN RESPECT OF BREACHES OF CONDITIONS [CABINET 2002 - 148]

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet approval of a system of delegation to the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing for processing requests for the waiver of the payment conditions by those who have received grant aid towards improvement of their privately owned properties. The report set out in detail the reasons for seeking the decision and the criteria which the Lead Member would apply to each case before deciding on a possible exemption. The conditions thus applied would assist in safeguarding the Council's interests.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves a system of delegation to the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing for processing requests for the waive of the payment conditions by those who have received grant aid towards improvement of their privately owned properties.

10 URGENT ITEMS [CABINET 2002 - 149]

- (i) **Minute 71 Cabinet 5 June 2002 – Draft Bus Strategy** – correction to an error in the foregoing minute. It should have stated Head of Highways and Transportation and not Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services in the context of preparation of the draft strategy.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves the correction to the Minutes.

- (ii) **WLGA Conference - Wales, "Priorities for Change" Llandudno 5/6 September 2002** – Cabinet were asked to decide whether or not to send a delegation to this year's

conference to be held at Llandudno. In view of the nature and range of subject areas covered, it was agreed that a delegation be sent and it was –

RESOLVED that Cabinet appoints the Leader together with Councillors P.A. Dobb, E.C. Edwards, G.M. Kensler with the Chief Executive to attend the WLGA Conference – Wales and that Councillor R.W. Hughes be appointed substitute.

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION No questions had been received by the closing date.

11 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 7 and 8 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

12 CAPITAL PROGRAMME GROUP REPORT - CONTRACT SERVICES CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2002/03 [CABINET 2002 - 150]

The Chief Executive presented the report and Appendices advising Members of applications for new capital schemes submitted by Contract Services.

The Chief Executive referred to the recommendations and said that it was a matter for Members whether to accept the recommendations for capital expenditure outlined en bloc or opt for some of them. The proposed expenditure would be made if approved out of surpluses generated by Contract Services. It was explained that, in the past, the former Contract Services Board would have granted the approval now sought and the total anticipated surplus would be generated by 31 March 2003. The Assistant Chief Executive (Contract Services) explained that, traditionally, surpluses were re-invested in developing and improving the service and the proposals before Members reflected this emphasis on re-investment in the business to maintain growth. A number of capital projects had therefore been identified with this in mind and were set out in detail in Appendix 1 to the report with priority classification given in Appendix 2. During discussion, Members were reminded that the full block allocation of £431,500 to Contract Services was still subject to approval by full Council later that day. Several detailed questions were asked on the report and comments made on the recommendations and list of priorities. In particular, Councillor W.R. Webb, Lead Member for Property and Asset Management asked that his concern be recorded about a proposal to spend £35k on Rhyl Botanical Gardens Depot Improvements and the need for further detailed discussions on the priority list outlined in para 7.1.2 of the report. Subject to the foregoing, and subject to approval by full Council of the block allocation of £431, 500 within the Capital Plan to Contract Services.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

- (a) confirms approval of schemes already undertaken as outlined in 7.1.1 of the report;
- (b) approves the schemes in para 7.1.2 of the report which are considered essential for the continuation of service delivery and impact on health and safety requirements, and
- (c) approves those schemes which are considered desirable for the continuation of service delivery as outlined in para 7.1.3 of the recommendation.

13 COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES - DOMICILIARY CARE [CABINET 2002 - 151]

Councillor P.A. Dobb presented the report seeking Cabinet determination of a framework for the future direction of Domiciliary Services that develops matters previously discussed by Members.

Councillor Dobb outlined the background and acknowledged the major issues involved and highlighted during pilot externalization of in-house services to the Independent Sector and concerns about comparative costs, quality of care to customers, terms and conditions of service of staff etc. She outlined the proposals for change and elaborated on the likely consequences both in terms of savings to the Council and likely impact on the Independent Sector. Before any decision was taken, re-assurances were given that all the proposals outlined would be the subject of detailed consultation.

RESOLVED that Cabinet gives approval to officers to proceed on the basis of the information detailed in the report to begin the process of consultation with service users, carers and staff groups. At the same time the Independent Sector should be approached in relation to the Council's expectations that they be available to respond to the increased demand on their sector as a result of the implementation of this new model of service.

14 **DOMICILIARY CARE - BLOCK CONTRACTS** [CABINET 2002 - 152]

Councillor P A Dobb presented the report seeking Members' agreement to tender for provision of domiciliary care in particular localities and for specific purposes by means of a block contract as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

This report followed previous reports to Cabinet and to the Personal Services Scrutiny Committee. The report provided details of two pilot schemes undertaken involving block contracts for providers in the Bodelwyddan and Llangollen areas and outlined the advantages to the providers and the customer of such contractual arrangements. The proposals if adopted county-wide would greatly assist the Council in meeting its statutory obligations to arrange domiciliary care for example when people are discharged from hospital under the Six Weeks Support for People at Home scheme and encourages the independent care sector to provide this service due to greater continuity and security for staff should fluctuation in demand occur periodically. All the proposals in the report and the detail in the appendices should be considered in the context of proposals generally for re-shaping domiciliary care aimed at improving services to the customer and involving more partnership with the independent sector. With all the necessary safeguards in place, block contracts via tendering in accordance with financial regulations, should lead to greater transparency and control. Also it should be clearer as to who those service providers are in the County and how the service to the customer is maintained and improved in all areas of the County.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves tendering for domiciliary care provision as specified in the Appendix to the report.

The meeting concluded at 12.45 p.m.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR J A SMITH, LEAD MEMBER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

DATE: 10 SEPTEMBER 2002

SUBJECT: CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN 2002-2007 AND CHILDREN FIRST REVIEW AND PLAN 2002-2003

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Cabinet is requested to approve for recommendation to Council for submission to the National Assembly for Wales, the Children's Services Strategic Plan 2002-2007, which includes the Children First Review and Plan 2002-2003.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- The proposed plans have been drawn up in response to statutory guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government issued under Section 7A of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970.
- The Children's Services Strategic Plan and Children First Action Plans were due to be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government by 1st July 2002. However, the Welsh Assembly Government experienced delays in issuing guidance for the plans: guidance for Children First was released in early May, and corrections to this guidance were issued on 7 July 2002. Consequently, the Assembly has agreed to an extension in the deadline. A draft version of the plans has been sent to the Assembly, and the final version will be submitted when Members' approval has been obtained.
- The aims of the Children's Services Strategic Plan are set out in the Social Services White Paper "*Building For the Future*", and the Welsh Assembly Government document "*Social Services Guidance on Planning*". As directed, the plan is based on agreed inter-agency objectives and includes broad 5 year projections for needs, performance targets, measurement and management proposals, proposed service developments and financial assumptions.
- The Children First Progress Report and Action Plan describes progress on actions taken during 2001-2002 to meet national and local objectives of the Children First Programme for Wales. The aim of the Children First programme is to transform services for children in need and their families. The Action Plan describes new and ongoing objectives for 2002-2003.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Projects within the Children First Programme 2002-2003 for Denbighshire cost £611,605. This includes:

- a Welsh Assembly Government Children First Development Fund Grant of £430,046;
- the Children First Base Budget rolled forward, including inflation, of £147,001;
- the balance being funded from the Social Services budget.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The majority of the costs of this service are met from external funding with the balance being met from within existing service revenue budgets. The recommendation does not result in a budget pressure and accordingly does not have an adverse impact on the Council's Corporate Objective to deliver balances of £1.0m by the end of the current financial year.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Draft copies of the document were distributed for consultation to:

Social Services managers and staff

John McKenna	(Specialist Mental Health Practitioner for LAC,CAMHS)
Sally Baxter	(Planning & Commissioning Manager, LHG)
Grenville Kershaw	(Chief Executive, C&D NHS Trust)
Dr Sarah Horrocks	(Consultant Community Paediatrician, C&D NHS Trust)
Alison Jones	(Nurse Consultant, C&D NHS Trust)
Alwen Ingledew	(Senior/Named Nurse-Child Protection, C&D NHS Trust)
David Hands	(Chief Executive, NWAHA)
Dr Ruth Parry	(Consultant in Public Health Medicine, NWAHA)
Julie Gilbanks	(N. Wales Assistant Director, NCH)
Glenys Griffiths	(Service Manager, Barnardos)
Christine Jones	(Co-ordinator, Sure Start)
Morfydd Roberts	(Chair, Childcare Partnership)
Sioned Bowen	(Director of Lifelong Learning)
Ieuan Lloyd Roberts	(Head of Education, Lifelong Learning)
Sylvia Jones	(Education Officer, Lifelong Learning)
Mike Denman	(Chair, Social Inclusion Management Group)
Nia Ellis Williams	(Strategic Manager, YOT)
Richard Brunstrom	(Chief Constable, North Wales Police)
Brian James	(Chair, North Wales Probation Board)

Groups:

Children's Services Planning Forum	(Chair: Paul McWade, SSD)
Children with Disabilities Development Group	(Chair: Fiona Faire, Lifelong Learning)
Looked After Children Development Group	(Chair: Gwynfor Griffiths, SSD)
Family Support Development Group	(Chair: Peter Hibbs, NCH)
ACPC	(Chair: Dr Sarah Horrocks, NHS Trust)
Leaving Care Forum	(Chair: Johnny O'Hagan & Ian Jones, SSD)

Events:

Consultation day, 11 July 2002, attended by 40 families children with disabilities.

Results of consultation:

In addition to advice from senior Social Services staff, which was incorporated into the document, consultation produced the following results:

- Comments from families attending the Consultation event on 11 July were incorporated into Annex 1 of the Children First Plan.
- Performance measures from the Youth Justice Plan were added to the list of linked action plans in objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the Children's Services Strategic Plan.
- The Looked After Children Development Group and the Family Support Development Group have set up 3 task groups to take forward and monitor aspects of the plans.
- The document was discussed and recommended for approval by Personal Services Policy Review and Scrutiny Committee on 31 July 2002, pending any revisions which may be required following a special Scrutiny Committee seminar meeting on 5 September 2002.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

It is intended that the Children's Services Strategic Plan will work in harmony with other Corporate and partner agency plans, where identified as linked action plans in its objectives.

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet approves, for recommendation to Council, the Children's Services Strategic Plan 2002-2007, and Children First Review and Plan 2002-2003, as the relevant strategic plan for Social Services Children & Families Services.



**DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PERSONAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE**

**PUTTING DENBIGHSHIRE'S CHILDREN
FIRST**

**Children's Services Strategic Plan
2002-2007**

and

**Children First Review and Plan
2002-2003**

FOREWORD

This Children's Services Strategic Plan for Denbighshire represents an ongoing commitment by Denbighshire County Council and its partner agencies to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children in need and their families.

For the first time, the Plan has two distinct components. In the first part, it reviews and examines progress made under the previous Children's Services Plan, in order to map out the needs and services to be prioritised over the coming year. This part also presents a long term vision of how Social Services can help improve safety and quality of life for vulnerable children in Denbighshire, in co-operation with families and with other organisations. The second part consists of the Review and Action Plans for Denbighshire's Children First programme - the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for transforming children's social services.

We are determined to make real, measurable, positive changes, and to target help where it is most needed. We are committed to listening to children and young people, to their families, and to other statutory and voluntary agencies. This Plan is the next chapter in the continuing story of the evolution of Social Services in Denbighshire. Its purpose is to ensure that all our children can feel safe, valued, and included, so that they too can make a difference in the world in which they are growing up. It is Denbighshire's children who will ultimately be the judges as to whether we have succeeded.

Sally Ellis
Corporate Director of Personal Services
Denbighshire County Council

PART ONE

Children's Services Strategic Plan 2002-2007

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This five year plan for Children's Social Services in Denbighshire has been closely structured on guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government, and developed in the context of strategic aims of the Local Authority as a whole, in conjunction with partner agencies. It outlines the role of Social Services in carrying out the joint planning arrangements for children's services, and provides a long-term vision regarding its responsibilities towards children in need in the county. For the first time, the plan incorporates a review of the Children First programme, and the Children First action plan for 2002-3.

Section headings throughout the document follow the framework for longer term strategic plans set out in the Social Services White Paper for Wales "Building For The Future." As a foundation for long-term planning, current demographic figures are outlined, and service provision for 2001-2 is broken down and evaluated. New objectives have been set, and an action plan describes how these link to the Children First plan, and to key strategic plans of other departments and agencies. The action plan sets immediate (12 month) targets, plus targets within a longer term (5 year) vision for children's services. The action plan objectives reflect the 10 key aims described in "Building For The Future."

The Children's Services Strategic Plan is driven and shaped by the Children First programme. The Children First Review and Plan for Denbighshire is presented in Part Two of the document. Part Two takes each main Children First Objective, and measures the relevant performance indicators against the targets set and achieved, and progress made for 2001-2. This information is used to develop the action plan and targets for 2002-3.

Summaries of key strategic documents from partner agencies are also presented as appendices. The Children's Services Strategic Plan will be reviewed annually alongside the Children First Plan and, when necessary, revisions will be published.

DRAFT
DENBIGHSHIRE CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN 2002 - 2007

This is a consultation draft version of the Denbighshire Children's Services Strategic Plan. A Summary version is being made available, and the final version will be bilingual in Welsh and English. To request copies of these other versions, or if you would like to express comments on the document, please contact:

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our aim is to promote the health and development of children and young people in need within their own families and communities, prevent family breakdown, and protect children from harm, by the provision of a range of high quality health, educational and social care support services.

INTRODUCTION

This new Children's Services Strategic Plan has been produced by the Denbighshire Personal Services Directorate through its Social Services department, in partnership with Health, Education and other statutory and voluntary organisations. It builds on previous Children's Services Plans, on the contributions of staff from various agencies, and on suggestions and advice of children, young people and their families throughout Denbighshire.

This is a 5 year strategic plan, based on planning guidance from the National Assembly for Wales, which followed the publication of the white paper 'Building for the Future'. This requires Social Services Departments to prepare plans for services for children and adults setting out the strategic direction for services over a period of up to five years, and to supplement these with annual reviews to report on progress in achieving their aims and targets. The plans of the Social Services Department must be developed within the context of the strategic aims of the Local Authority as a whole and in conjunction with partner agencies.

1. THE BASIS FOR THE PLAN

1.1 The National Assembly for Wales has provided Social Services Departments with a set of key aims and priorities, and these have become the central focus of this Children's Services Strategic Plan. These aims and priorities are:

- **Social Inclusion:** To contribute towards securing an inclusive society in which people can lead productive and meaningful lives.
- **Independence:** To support individuals and families towards greater independence.
- **Responsiveness:** To provide services which are responsive to individual needs and choice.
- **Carers:** To recognise and support carers of all ages in their role in caring for vulnerable people.
- **Staffing:** To ensure that staff involved in social care are appropriately skilled, trained and qualified and that their conduct and practice are properly regulated.
- **Effectiveness:** To ensure effective and efficient services in keeping with the principles of Best Value.
- **Management:** To provide a management framework that monitors performance and secures accountability, and is built on the Council's corporate responsibilities, particularly towards children.
- **Safeguards:** To ensure that safeguards (including advocacy, complaints procedures, inspection and regulation) are in place and are publicised, to protect and promote the welfare of vulnerable children and adults.
- **Planning:** To ensure that all partners, including users and carers, can contribute to the planning and development of services.
- **Partnership:** To work closely with agencies and services, including those in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors, to support people to achieve these objectives.

1.2 THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

1.2.1 The five year strategic plan provides the long term vision for the development of children's social services provided by Denbighshire's Personal Services Directorate. It will be part of the broader vision of Denbighshire's Community Strategy, which will set out core goals for social development and in related

goals for housing, education, environment, leisure and public health development.

1.3 CORPORATE PRIORITIES FOR 2002 / 2003

1.3.1 The Cabinet of Denbighshire County Council commits itself to providing a clear vision for corporate direction, in light of continued budget recovery, developing both members and staff to meet future demands and to deliver continuing improvements in services for the people of Denbighshire. Priorities will be achieved by the following objectives:

- C1 Maintain strong controls over expenditure in order to protect the financial position of the Authority.
- C2 Development of a modern, accountable and transparent local government to ensure that the Modernising Agenda is achieved.
- C3 Develop services so as to meet the needs of the people of Denbighshire.
- C4 Develop the organisation (members and staff) in a way that will meet the future requirements of the Council.

1.4 DENBIGHSHIRE SOCIAL SERVICES VISION STATEMENT

1.4.1 The vision for Social Services is to serve the People well by enhancing the quality of life for vulnerable people and their carers in identified priority areas. This will be achieved by planned improvements which ensure safeguards are in place, support independence and promote social inclusion in a variety of settings, through self help and personal empowerment.

1.4.2 This Vision will be realised through:

- effective internal and external sustainable long term partnerships;
- a skilled and well supported workforce motivated to achieve high standards;
- being a coherent, well run, accountable and challenging organisation.

These principles inform the following Social Services primary objectives (see *Table 1*).

1.5 SOCIAL SERVICES PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

Table 1

Service Objective	Corporate Objective Supported	Description
SSD/PO/1	C3	To assess the needs of individuals, families and carers in line with statutory duties.
SSD/PO/2	C1 & C3	To meet identified priority needs within available resources and promoting independence and social inclusion.
SSD/PO/3	C3	To inform users, carers and others of the social care services available to them.
SSD/PO/4	C2 & C4	To establish strategic partnerships with other Directorates and external agencies.
SSD/PO/5	C1, C2, C3, C4	To produce, implement and review a business plan covering a three year period and incorporating plans as required by legislation.
SSD/PO/6	C1 & C3	To attempt to secure adequate resources for the Department.
SSD/PO/7	C3	To promote the Council's Anti Poverty Strategy and Local Agenda 21.
SSD/PO/8	C3	To provide a representation and complaints procedure.
SSD/PO/9	C1, C2 & C3	To define, publish, consult on and review quality standards and to have systems to monitor services against these standards.
SSD/PO/10	C3 & C4	To ensure that personnel practices and procedures conform with policy and legislation.
SSD/PO/11	C3 & C4	To ensure that all staff receive supervision, support and development opportunities linked to service objectives.
SSD/PO/12	C1, C2 & C3	To collect and provide relevant, accurate and timely information to support delivery of services.
SSD/PO/13	C2, C3 & C4	To research the most effective and progressive means of service delivery.

**2. PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE SERVICE COMMISSIONING/DEVELOPMENT
ACTION PLANS 2002-2007**

Objective 1: Social Inclusion. To contribute towards securing an inclusive society in which people can lead productive and meaningful lives.

Linked Action Plans	Linked objectives
Children First Programme	CF1, 2
Children and Youth Partnership Programme 2002-5	Programme objectives
Sure Start Programme	Programme objectives
Education Strategic Plan 2002-2005	2.4.5 ("Young Parents Support")
Health Improvement Programme 2000-2005	5.1.2.6 ("Social Inclusion and Health")
Corporate Objectives	C3 (Develop services to meet needs)
Communities First Strategy	West & South West Rhyl Communities Strategy
Youth Justice Plan	Performance Measure 11 (Education) & 12 (Accommodation)

Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
1.1 Achievement of Children First objectives 1 and 2	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	Annual reviews and amended action plans to be produced, with contingency plans for post-March 2004.	Head of Service (Children & Families)
1.2 Targeting direct community support on most excluded families	Respond to key recommendations of Cardiff University review of Family Centres	Agreement on new Family Centre SLA with NCH	SLA renegotiated by July 2002	Annual reviews of family centre activity, with recommendations for any changes to SLA, to be presented to SMT	Service Manager (Children & Families)

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Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
1.3 Increased educational achievements of children looked after	Implementation of guidance on Education of Looked after Children	Production and implementation of Joint Protocol on the Education of Children Looked After	Protocol agreed by elected members by March 2003	Annual audit programme to monitor implementation and raise standards	Chair, Looked After Children Development Group
1.4 Full participation in initiatives which reverse disadvantage in key Denbighshire neighbourhoods.	Utilise Communities First funding via 4 Area Partnerships towards meeting need and improving quality of life for families of children in need.	Targets and action plan of Communities First Strategy (to be agreed).	Shadow Steering Group for Communities First Partnership established by July 2002.	Improvement in indicators of deprivation (NAW Index of Deprivation)	Director of Personal Services

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Objective 2: Independence. To support individuals and families towards greater independence.

Linked Action Plans	Linked objectives
Children First	CF 1,2,5
Children & Youth Partnership Plan	Programme objectives
Sure Start Plan	Programme objective 4
Corporate Objectives	C3 (Develop services to meet needs)
Single Person's Homelessness Strategy	Action Plan 2001-3
Youth Justice Plan	Performance Measures 7, 11, 12

Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
2.1 Achievement of Children First objectives 1,2, 5	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	Annual reviews and amended action plans to be produced, with contingency plans for post-March 2004.	Head of Service (Children & Families)
2.2 Co-ordination of support towards independence for young care leavers	Development of a needs-led leaving care strategy	Leaving Care Strategy meets requirements of Leaving Care Act	Leaving Care Strategy agreed by SMT by March 2003	Update on Leaving Care Strategy to be included in Children's Services Plan annual reviews.	Team Manager for Leaving Care
2.3 Provision of information allowing families of children in need to make informed choices and decisions	Collation of resource information into one accessible, user-friendly document for service users and professionals.	Distribution of Resource Directory	Publication by March 2003	Development of comprehensive Publication Strategy; timetable to be outlined in next Children's Services Plan annual review.	Team Manager, Performance Management & Support Unit (proposed post)

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Objective 3: Responsiveness. To provide services which are responsive to individual needs and choice.

Linked Action Plans	Linked objectives
Children First	CF 7
Education Strategic Plan 2002-2005	1.10.1 ("Personal & Social Education")
Corporate Objectives	C3 (Develop services to meet needs)
Youth Justice Plan	Performance Measures 3, 8, 11, 12, 13

Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
3.1 Achievement of Children First objective 7	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	Annual reviews and amended action plans to be produced, with contingency plans for post-March 2004.	Head of Service (Children & Families)
3.2 Ensuring that the needs of individual children in need and their families are effectively matched to appropriate services	Implementation of a Family Support Strategy based on recommendations of the "Matching Needs and Services" report	Family Support Strategy produced	Family Support Strategy approved by SMT by March 2003	Family Support Strategy to include 5 year strategic objectives, reviewed annually by SMT.	Head of Service (Children & Families)
3.3 Ensuring that the needs of individual children in need and their families are accurately assessed	Continued implementation, improvement, and training around Assessment Framework for children in need	Assessment Framework Implementation Plan (Part 2) produced	Framework Implementation Plan (Part 2) agreed by SMT, by September 2002	Feedback and training reports to be included in Children's Services Plan annual reviews.	Chair, Framework Implementation Group

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Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
3.4 Ensuring a fair and consistent gateway to responsive needs-led services	To establish clear Social Services eligibility criteria within Assessment Framework for Children in Need	Eligibility criteria included in updated Procedures Manual; in use by all Social Work Teams; all social workers received training	Eligibility criteria approved by elected members by September 2002	Eligibility criteria reviewed annually as part of annual review of childcare procedures.	Service Manager (Children & Families)

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Objective 4: Carers. To recognise and support carers of all ages in their role in caring for vulnerable people.

Linked Action Plans	Linked objectives
Children First	CF 4, 6, 7, 9
Corporate Objectives	C3 (Develop services to meet needs)
Strategy for Carers in Denbighshire	Action points
Youth Justice Plan 2002-3 - 2004-5	Overall Objective 7 (Reinforcing the responsibilities of parents)

Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
4.1 Achievement of Children First objectives 4, 6, 7, 9	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	Annual reviews and amended action plans to be produced, with contingency plans for post-March 2004.	Head of Service (Children & Families)
4.2 Development of placement options for looked after children which are safe, financially achievable, and supportive to children, carers, and families	Involvement of LAC Development Group in production of a revised comprehensive Placement Strategy	a) New Placement Strategy produced and regularly reviewed b) All placements meet criteria of Care Standards Inspectorate, and National Foster Care Standards	Improvements to Foster Plus scheme in place by March 2003	Comprehensive Placement Strategy document produced by July 2003. Annual review of Placement Strategy presented to SMT	Head of Service (Children & Families)
4.3 Improvement of foster carer service	Implementation of Best Value review of Foster Care service	Best Value report action plan	Best Value report completed by July 2002	Best Value review action plan completed within time frames to be agreed by SMT.	Family Placement Team Manager

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Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
4.4 Increased numbers of foster carers with professional qualifications	Development of training programme	Number of foster carers with NVQ certificates	12 foster carers to complete NVQ level 3 by March 2003	Numbers completing annual training programme in line with National Foster Care Standards	Family Placement Team Manager
4.5 Implementation of Carers and Disabled Children Act	<p>a) Format for Carers Assessments to be improved</p> <p>b) Opportunities for Direct Payments to be improved</p>	<p>a) Carers Assessments to be integrated into Assessment Framework (see 3.3)</p> <p>b) Direct Payments advisor service in operation</p>	<p>a) See Framework Implementation Plan (3.3)</p> <p>b) Official launch of Direct Payments scheme, with Penderels Trust as advisory service: June 2002</p>	<p>a) See 3.3</p> <p>b) Penderels Trust to provide qualitative and quantitative quarterly reports</p>	Head of Service (Children & Families)

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Objective 5: Staffing. To ensure that staff involved in social care are appropriately skilled, trained and qualified and that their conduct and practice are properly regulated.

Linked Action Plans	Linked objectives
Children First	CF 11
Corporate Objectives	C4 (Develop the organisation - members and staff)
Social Services Workforce Strategy 2002-2007	Action Plans

Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
5.1 Achievement of Children First objective 11	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	Annual reviews and amended action plans to be produced, with contingency plans for post-March 2004.	Head of Service (Children & Families)
5.2 Effective targeting and development of staff training support programme	Production and completion of detailed annual training plans	Separate plans to include: Child Care; NVQ; Management; DipSW Practice Teaching.	Detailed Training Plans for children's services published by July 2002 in "Business Plan/ Social Care Plan 2002-2005".	Annual training plans for children's services to be reviewed in future updates of Children's Services Strategic Plan	Team Manager, Performance Management & Support Unit (proposed post)
5.3 Increased evidence of excellence in Social Work practice	Practice improvement programme to raise standards of case recording and evidence of good practice.	Audit programme to monitor practice improvement from baseline measures in line with "Recording with Care".	Progressive quality targets staged to reach agreed standards within 12 months	Continuous quality improvement programme to be included in Children's Services Plan annual reviews.	Service Manager (Children & Families)

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Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
5.4 Increased consistency of excellence in conduct and practice	a) Improved and updated guidance and procedures b) Action to improve quality of case recording	a) Production of revised procedures manual b) Rolling programme of case file audits	a) New procedures manual by February 2003 b) Initial base line audit completed September 2002	Compliance standards and targets published in Children's Services Plan annual reviews.	Team Manager, Performance Management & Support Unit (proposed post)
5.5 Improve recruitment, retention and motivation of children's services staff	Implementation of Social Services Workforce Strategy 2002-2007	Action Plan of Workforce Strategy	Workforce Strategy approved by elected members by December 2002	Action Plan of Workforce Strategy completed by March 2007	Senior Manager, Business Support & Development (proposed post)
5.6 Ensure consistent manageable workloads	Production and implementation of caseload weighting protocol.	Implementation plan for caseload weighting protocol agreed by SMT.	Pilot programme initiated by March 2003	Quarterly report to SMT with recommendations for improvement	Service Manager (Children & Families)

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Objective 6: Effectiveness. To ensure effective and efficient services in keeping with the principles of Best Value.

Linked Action Plans	Linked objectives
Children First	CF 8
Corporate Objectives	C2 (Development of a modern, accountable, transparent local government)
Best Value Performance Plan	Service Reviews, 2002-5

Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
6.1 Achievement of Children First objective 8	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	Annual reviews and amended action plans to be produced, with contingency plans for post-March 2004.	Head of Service (Children & Families)
6.2 Root and branch review and improvement of service provision	Use of Joint Review Inspection as driver for change	a) Joint Review position statement b) Joint Review action plan	Position statement prepared by November 2002	5 year action plan following June 2003 Inspection Report with achievable annual targets approved by Joint Review Team	Director of Personal Services

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Objective 7: Management. To provide a management framework that monitors performance and secures accountability, and is built on the Council's corporate responsibilities, particularly towards children.

Linked Action Plans	Linked objectives
Children First	CF 8
Education Strategic Plan 2002-2005	2.5 ("Looked after children")
Corporate Performance Plan	C2 (Development of a modern, accountable, transparent local government)

Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
7.1 Achievement of Children First objective 8	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	Annual CF reviews and amended action plans to be produced, with contingency plans for post-March 2004.	Head of Service (Children & Families)
7.2 Ensured continuity of service beyond Children First programme	Exit strategy/ contingency plans produced	Exit strategy/ contingency plans agreed by Cabinet	Recommendation by Departmental Management Team to continue working to CF principles (March 2003)	Cabinet agreement by March 2004	Head of Service (Children & Families)
7.3 Improved data collection and management information systems	Implement electronic client information system	Care.Comm launched	Care.Comm on line by December 2002 accompanied by training programme and hardware provision plans.	Annual report with recommendations for improvement to SMT	Team Manager (Performance Management & Support Unit)

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Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
7.4 Improved financial management of out of county residential spending	Increase accountability of Children's Residential Care Panel	Financial report with recommendations presented to SMT.	Report by March 2003	Annual reports to SMT thereafter	Chair of Children's Residential Care Panel
7.5 Creation of performance management approach throughout children's services	Restructuring of social service department	Performance Management and Support Unit in operation	March 2003	Rolling programme of performance management plans produced by Team Manager (Performance Management & Support Unit)	Head of Children's Services

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Objective 8: Safeguards. To ensure that safeguards (including advocacy, complaints procedures, inspection and regulation) are in place and are publicised, to protect and promote the welfare of vulnerable children and adults

Linked Action Plans	Linked objectives
Children First	CF 3, 10
Education Strategic Plan 2002-2005	2.2.4 ("Celebrating diversity and challenging prejudice.")
Corporate Performance Plan	C3.2 (Ensure that Service Plans meet needs of people with special requirements)
ACPC Business Plan	Annual work programmes

Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
8.1 Achievement of Children First objectives 3, 10	See Children First Plan.	See Children First Plan.	See Children First Plan.	Annual reviews and amended action plans to be produced, with contingency plans for post-March 2004.	Head of Service (Children & Families).
8.2 Improved effectiveness of representation and complaints process.	a) Enhanced role of representation and complaints within revised social services structure. b) Representation and complaints to inform service improvements via "Respond" data base.	Service operational action plan of Business Support & Development Unit.	Representation and complaints post created within new Business Support & Development Unit by August 2002.	Action plan of Business Support & Development Unit to be achieved.	Head of Children's Services.

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Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
8.3 Improved children's rights service for looked after children	Re-examination of the best option for a children's rights service	Improved children's rights provision in place	March 2003	Service provider to present annual report to SMT prior to renegotiation of SLA	Service Manager (Children & Families)
8.4 Improved Independent Visitor scheme for looked after children	Re-examination of the best option for an Independent Visitor scheme	New Independent Visitor scheme in place	October 2002	Annual report on Independent Visitor scheme presented to Children Looked After Development Group	Service Manager (Children & Families)
8.5 Promote emotional well-being of looked after children	Work with CAMHS to develop confidential mental health provision specific to the needs of looked after children	Mental Health Practitioner for LAC in post	June 2002	Mental Health Practitioner for LAC to advise LAC Development Group on service development needs	Chair, LAC Development Group
8.6 Implementation of All-Wales Child Protection Procedures	Training programme on All-Wales Child Protection Procedures	a) Training Programme launched b) New Child Protection Procedures to be incorporated into updated Procedures Manual.	a) June 2002 b) New Child Protection section incorporated into Procedures manual by February 2003	Child Protection Co-ordinator to liaise between ACPC and Social Services to identify service development and training needs	Child Protection Co-ordinator
8.7 Implementation of SSIW report recommendations on child protection services.	Production and implementation of Child Protection Inspection Action Plan	Quarterly reviews of Action Plan.	First quarterly report to SMT by September 2002	Child Protection Inspection Action Plan objectives are incorporated into this 5 year Strategic Plan.	Head of Service (Children & Families)

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Objective 9: Planning. To ensure that all partners, including users and carers, can contribute to the planning and development of services.

Linked Action Plans	Linked objectives
Children First	CF 8, 9
Education Strategic Plan 2002-2005	3.2.3 ("Consultation with others including children")
Health Improvement Programme 2000-2005	6.5 ("Commitment to Partners")
Corporate Performance Plan	C3.1 (Develop customer focused service plans)
Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust: Public & Patient Involvement Strategy	2002-3 Action Plan: Aim 3 ("Sustain and evaluate the aims of the compact.")

Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
9.1 Achievement of Children First objective 8, 9	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	Annual reviews and amended action plans to be produced, with contingency plans for post-March 2004.	Head of Service (Children & Families)
9.2 Increased influence of partners on Social Services planning agenda	Implementation of Denbighshire Social Services Consultation Policy	Social Services training event on public consultation	Training event by October 2002	Consultation reports published in Children's Services Plan annual reviews.	Team Manager, Performance Management & Support Unit (proposed post)
9.3 Increased participation of children and young people in service planning	Implementation of the Welsh Assembly Government's proposed strategy "Llais Ifanc: Moving Forward."	Children's Services consultation strategy produced	Strategy approved by SMT by March 2003	Views of children and young people reported in Children's Services Plan annual reviews	Team Manager, Performance Management & Support Unit (proposed post)

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Objective 10: Partnership. To work closely with agencies and services, including those in the statutory, voluntary and private sectors, to support people to achieve these objectives.

Linked Action Plans	Linked objectives
Children First	CF 8
Health Improvement Programme 2000-2005	5.3.1 ("National Strategy for Promoting Health & Well-being")
Education Strategic Plan 2002-2005	3.2 ("Children & Young People: Framework for Partnership")
Corporate Performance Plan	C2 (Develop Community Planning)
Denbighshire Supporting People Project Plan	Draft Action Plan

Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
10.1 Achievement of Children First objective 8	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	See Children First Plan	Annual reviews and amended action plans to be produced, with contingency plans for post-March 2004.	Head of Service (Children & Families)
10.2 Achieve closer partnership arrangements between Health and Social Services	Health Act (1999) Flexibilities opportunities explored.	Agreement in principle between Health and Local Authority to establish programmes of lead commissioning, pooled budgets, or integrated services.	Joint Flexibilities Implementation Manager in post by August 2002	Agreement in principle (see Performance Indicator) to have resulted in operational action plan.	Joint Flexibilities Implementation Manager
10.3 Formulation and implementation of Health and Well Being Strategy	Development of a Local Strategic Partnership for Health and Well-being	Agreement by Council and by Local Health Board on formation of Strategic Partnership for Health and Well-being	Consultation completed by June 2002	Long term targets to be agreed with Local Health Board in 2003.	Director of Personal Services

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Sub-objective	Key action	Performance Indicator	Targets 2002-3	Targets 2002-07	Lead Responsibility
10.4 Implementation of "Children and Young People: a Framework for Partnership."	Social Services to carry out its inter-agency responsibilities in the Framework.	Agreement by Cabinet of Framework Plan	Timetable to be agreed with Social Inclusion Management Group; update report to POPS by March 2003	Timetable to be agreed with Social Inclusion Management Group; plans to be incorporated in updates of Children's Services Strategic Plan.	SSD representatives on main Framework Group and sub-partnerships (Children's Partnership and Young People's Partnership).
10.5 Development of sessional worker support to families with disabled children	Agree partnership plan with Barnardos to develop sessional worker service	SLA to be agreed with Barnados	SLA by August 2002	Barnardos to provide annual report to SMT prior to annual update of SLA	Service Manager (Children & Families)
10.6 To work with Adult Services, Housing, Health and Probation to extend the range of support to families of children in need.	Task group formed to develop resources for families under stress within "Supporting People" initiative.	Task Group formed to identify eligible families to be included in "Supporting People" programme.	Majority of claims for Transitional Housing Benefit bid for families identified by Task Group processed by Housing Benefits Dept by 1 October 2002.	Children's Services to be represented on Supporting People Planning Group for the duration of the programme.	Supporting People Co-ordinator / Supporting People Team Manager (proposed post)

3. JOINT PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 JOINT PLANNING GROUPS

3.1.1 A number of inter-agency joint planning groups exist in Denbighshire, and were involved with the development of this Children's Services Strategic Plan. These include:

- ◆ The ***Children and Families Strategic Planning Forum*** - a multi-agency group consisting of senior officers from Health, Education, Children's Rights, the Voluntary Sector and Social Services.
- ◆ Multi-agency ***Development Groups*** which undertake detailed work as sub-groups of the Strategic Planning Forum. These are currently:
 - Family Support Development Group
 - Children with Health Needs and Disability Development Group
 - Looked After Children Development Group
 - Assessment Framework for Children in Need Implementation Group
 - Leaving Care Forum
- ◆ Other important **multi-agency teams and groups**, in particular:
 - Area Child Protection Committee
 - Youth Offending Team
 - Social Inclusion Management Group
 - Sure Start Management Group

3.2 JOINT PLANNING WITHIN THE AUTHORITY

3.2.1 Links with Chief Executive's Office

3.2.2 Social Services plans both inform and are developed from Denbighshire County Council's Business Plans. The Corporate Performance Plan is one of the ways in which the community, business and partner organisations can track performance and progress towards achieving best value services and hold Denbighshire County Council into account. It is published each year and is independently audited to make sure it is a fair and accurate statement of the Council's performance. The Chief Executive's office requires Social Services to produce a 3-year Service Business Plan, which links service objectives and actions to corporate objectives.

3.2.3 The Chief Executives Office takes a lead role on several initiatives of direct relevance to Social Services, such as the Community Strategy, the Drug & Alcohol Forum, and the Children and Young People's Framework.

3.2.4 Links with Housing Services

3.2.5 Links with Housing Services are important not just for addressing social exclusion needs of vulnerable adults, but also to ensure that suitable housing is available for families with children in need. There is, therefore, a clear need for housing services and social services to co-operate in identifying the housing needs of people covered by the Children's Services Plan. Areas in which there is ongoing co-operation between the departments include:

- Leaving Care. Joint assessments of the housing needs of individual care leavers already take place. These will be re-examined within a new Leaving Care Strategy, and will include the Pathway Plans required under the Children (Leaving Care)(Wales) Regulations 2001.
- Denbighshire Single Person's Homelessness Strategy. This strategy was launched in June 2002, and resulted largely from work carried out by the Denbighshire Housing Forum. The Housing Forum consists of representatives of the Social Services Department, the Housing Department, the Housing Associations operating in Denbighshire, and Shelter. The Strategy document included an audit of existing services, and an action plan for service development.
- Supporting People. Changes to Housing Benefit mean that families of children in need may be eligible for the Transitional Housing Benefit, in the run-up to the Welsh Assembly Government's Supporting People scheme. The departments are working together to ensure that this money is used to support vulnerable eligible young people and families as much as possible.

3.2.6 Links with Education Services

3.2.7 Education Services are part of the Directorate of Lifelong Learning, which also includes Leisure, Libraries and Information, Museums, Schools, and the Youth Service. The Mission Statement of the Directorate of Lifelong Learning is: "To promote the development of pupils at school and of society generally, in order to allow all to maximise their opportunities, to exercise responsibility for their own welfare and that of others, and to benefit fully from life's experiences." Denbighshire Social Services and Education Departments continue to work closely together and with others on key initiatives such as the Children and Youth Partnership Programme (under the Social Inclusion Management Group), and the Children First Programme. The Directorate of Lifelong Learning is also represented on a range of joint planning groups (described above). The appointment of a Education Liaison Officer has brought closer links between the two services, for example in the development of a joint protocol on the Education of Children Looked After. The action plan of the Education Strategic Plan (2002-5), relating to Looked after Children, is summarised in Appendix 9.

3.3 JOINT PLANNING WITH HEALTH

- 3.3.1 Denbighshire's Joint Consultative Committee (JCC), which previously advised local authorities and health authorities on areas of common concern, is being replaced in 2002 by a new inter-agency strategic partnership. Details of the new arrangements are to be published when finalised.
- 3.3.2 The Denbighshire Local Health Group (LHG) was formed in 1999. The LHG was set up as a sub-committee of the North Wales Health Authority, and will take over many of the Health Authority's responsibilities in April 2003. The LHG is responsible for shaping health services to meet local needs and for commissioning local health care. Denbighshire County Council has two representatives on this group, the Director of Personal Services and the Head of Housing Services. The Health Improvement Programme (Appendix 7) is the roadmap to the transformation of the LHG into the Local Health Board in 2003.
- 3.3.4 During 1999, a new Joint Planning and Commissioning Group was also established. The group consists of senior officers from the Local Authority, North Wales Health Authority, the Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust, and the Local Health Group. The role of the group includes ensuring joint planning arrangements are co-ordinated, working together to develop alternative services and exploring ways of delivering services which are more flexible and integrated. A fundamental review of planning arrangements is underway and new proposals will be produced by the end of the year. The intention is to ensure that planning arrangements result in better outcomes for clients, something which is not evident across all of the current arrangements.
- 3.3.5 There are a range of other forums in which the Social Services and Health Services work together to collaborate and share information, such as the Children with Health Needs and Disabilities Development Group. Joint work is also planned within this strategic document in anticipation that the Welsh Assembly Government will provide resources to meet expectations raised by its child and adolescent mental health strategy "Everybody's Business". Other areas of joint planning include Health Improvement Plans, community safety, Sure Start, the Children and Youth Partnership and the Children First Programmes.

3.4 JOINT PLANNING WITH THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

- 3.4.1 Voluntary organisations are essential to the provision of support to the families of children in need. They provide services and support a wide range of people and are particularly important in meeting specialist needs and the needs of people in rural areas. The Department will invest £569,823 in grants to all voluntary organisations in 2002/ 2003, with £224,203 coming from Children's Services.
- 3.4.2 The voluntary sector has representatives on the Joint Consultative Committee and the Local Health Group, thus giving them a voice in the overall health and social care planning process. They are also represented on a range of joint planning groups as described above.
- 3.4.3 Voluntary Organisations play a significant role in the planning and provision of children's services. For example, the Princes Trust is providing a mentoring service as part of Denbighshire's Leaving Care Strategy. NCH Action for Children manages 2 family centres (Glan y Mor and Canolfan Seion), and a residential children's home (Bryn y Wal), and also provides a Young Carers Project. Until 2002, the Children's Society provided an independent Children's Rights Service for looked after children via a collaborative programme between Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. How that work can be continued, following the withdrawal of the Children's Society from Wales, is currently being re-examined.

3.5 KEY JOINTLY HELD SERVICE OBJECTIVES

- 3.5.1 A Framework Partnership is being developed to take the lead on developing Denbighshire's Children and Young People's Framework, which will have strong links to the Children's Services Plan. It has key officers such as the Chief Executive, Directors of Personal Services and Lifelong Learning as well as appropriate Lead Cabinet Members in its membership. It also includes representatives from a number of other organisations and voluntary groups, because the framework strategy needs to reflect how the Council and its partners will make provision for young people jointly. Within the next 5 years, it is envisaged that Denbighshire will have a co-ordinated planning structure which will encourage and regulate the development of existing programmes, notably:
- Childcare Partnership & Early Years Strategy;
 - Children and Youth Partnership, Youth Access, and Play Initiatives;
 - Sure Start.
- 3.5.2 At the current time (Summer 2002), discussions are taking place which may result in the Early Years and Childcare Partnerships being united and strengthened, in partnership with the Sure Start Management Group, in order to manage the "Early Entitlement" programmes within Cymorth funding; while the Children and Youth Partnership focusses on the "Extended Entitlement" programmes. Within this

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structure, a Young People's Partnership will be formed, with its own strategic vision looking forward as far as April 2008. At the time of writing, Wales Assembly Government guidance has yet to be published as to how these Framework plans are to be set up. Future reviews of the Children's Services Strategic Plan will clarify the relationship and areas of alignment between this plan and the Children and Young People's Framework. A draft strategy is to be discussed by the Framework Partnership in July 2002.

- 3.5.3 The driving force in Denbighshire for transforming children's social services continues to be the Children First Programme. Although the Welsh Assembly Government has only outlined proposals for continuing the Children First Development Fund up to 2004, Denbighshire Personal Services is committed to upholding the principles of Children First as central to transforming services to children and families.

4. SETTING THE LOCAL CONTEXT

4.1 THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

4.1.1 Denbighshire's Social Services Consultation Policy was approved by elected members in December 2001. A consistent inter-agency approach to service user involvement is being negotiated by the Public Involvement Group, which includes representatives of Social Services, Local Health Group, Health Authority, NHS Trust, and Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council. Service user consultation is recognised to be the key factor in planning at inter-agency, corporate, directorate, and departmental levels. Service user views were drawn from a variety of sources in the writing of the Children's Services Strategic Plan. These include:

- Matching Needs and Services: a 2001 report from the Dartington Institute commissioned by Denbighshire Social Services on the needs of children looked after in the county.
- Children's Rights Service, which has provided a service to children looked after and to disabled children, including consultation, advocacy, independent visiting, and Speak Out days.
- Young Carers' Forum, with a young person funded from Carer's Special Grant to act as facilitator.
- Denbighshire 500, providing a citizens' forum to advise the Council on a range of policy issues.
- Children and Youth Partnership, which carried out an extensive consultation via its Youth Forums on services wanted by young people.
- An independent review of the Foster Plus scheme has been commissioned which will include the views of young people looked after.
- An independent review of the 2 NCH Family Centres in Denbighshire published in September 2001.
- A research project funded by the Wales Office of Research & Development, titled "Supporting Families: a comparison of outcomes and economic evaluation of services for children in need in two areas" (2000) based on interviews with 22 families in Denbighshire and 21 families in Conwy.
- Annual consultation day for disabled children and their families organised by the Children with Health Needs and Disabilities Planning Group. At these meetings, children and their families have identified a range of needs including the need for improved co-ordination of services, better published information, more flexible forms of respite care and increased involvement in planning services.

4.1.2 Service user consultation is seen as an ongoing process, guided by reports such as People Like Us, Lost in Care, the Carlile Review, and the anticipated Children's Commissioner's report on advocacy. It is expected that during 2002-7, planning and development within Denbighshire's children's social Services will be linked strongly to the consultation and participation mechanism (including "Llais

Ifanc/Young Voice”) described in the Welsh Assembly Government’s consultation document *Moving Forward - Listening to Children and Young People*.

4.2 THE POPULATION OF DENBIGHSHIRE

4.2.1 Denbighshire has:

A growing population. The 1997 Mid Year Estimate gives a population of 90,322. However, the growth is slow and has not kept up with population estimates based on the 1991 census which estimated that the population would increase from 89,257 (1991) to 92,883 by 1998. A negative natural change (i.e. more deaths than births) in Denbighshire is a major contributing factor.

Table 2: Population figures from the 1997 Mid Year Population Estimate.

Ages	Male	Female	TOTAL
0 - 4	2,818	2,638	5,456
5 - 9	3,015	2,783	5,798
10 - 14	2,854	2,653	5,507
15 - 19	2,551	2,346	4,897
20+	32,344	36,320	68,664
TOTAL	43,582	46,740	90,322

The above figures demonstrate that approximately one quarter of Denbighshire’s total population is in the age range of 0 - 19.

A high death rate (the second highest in Wales at a rate of 15 deaths per 1000 residents). The Welsh average is 12 per 1000. However, this is probably reflective of the age of the population as other statistics indicate that the population has good overall health.

Areas of significant deprivation. Rhyl West is the most multiply deprived electoral division in Wales. Rhyl South West ranks as the 49th highest area of multiple deprivation. Therefore, two of Denbighshire’s largest electoral divisions feature as significant areas of multiple deprivation in Wales. Objective 1 status provides an opportunity to try and address deprivation.

A slightly higher than average rate of long-term unemployment. 22% unemployed for 1 year and over compared with the Welsh average of 19%. Unemployment increases during the winter months (January - March) reflecting the seasonal nature of the tourist industry in the area.

A rural population. Rurality is an issue that affects many people in Denbighshire as many live in small rural communities. Public transport can be limited in some areas due to provision or frequency. Some public transport and buildings are not accessible for some people.

A high number of Welsh speakers. In 1991, 25.3% of the population spoke Welsh. This however ranges from 11.8% in Prestatyn and Rhyl to 69.4% in Gwyddelwern. (See Table 3).

Table 3: percentage of Welsh speakers by location

Community	% Welsh Speakers	Community	% Welsh Speakers
Prestatyn	11.8	Llanrhaeadr yng Nghmeirch	62.9
Rhyl	11.8	Llandrillo	64.4
Bodelwyddan	17.9	Llanynys	67.4
Llangollen	20.7	Cynwyd	68.0
St Asaph	20.7	Gwyddelwern	69.4

4.3 ETHNIC IDENTITY

4.3.1 Denbighshire has a small but important ethnic minority population. Table 4 shows the number and percentage of the resident population within each ethnic group in 1991. Whilst the population is predominantly white, there were 559 non white people living in the County in 1991.

Table 4: Ethnicity from 1991 census

Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage
White	88,618	99.37
Black Caribbean	36	0.04
Black African	24	0.03
Black Other	51	0.06
Indian	104	0.12
Pakistani	67	0.08
Bangladeshi	38	0.04
Chinese	85	0.1
Other Asian	44	0.05
Other	110	0.12
Total	89,177	100

4.4 DISTRIBUTION

Table 5: Main population centres in Denbighshire

Rhyl	-	24,380
Prestatyn & Meliden	-	17,200
Denbigh	-	9,450
Ruthin	-	5,090
Llangollen	-	4,260
St Asaph	-	3,930
Rhuddlan	-	3,190
Dyserth	-	2,410
Trefnant	-	2,290

Together, the above towns account for 72,200 of the total population. Approximately 20,000 people therefore live outside towns which have a population of above 2,000.

4.5 SERVICE NEED IN DENBIGHSHIRE

4.5.1 Children in Need

4.5.2 Under the Children Act 1989, a child is "in need" if:

- a) he is unlikely to achieve or maintain, or to have the opportunity of achieving or maintaining, a reasonable standard of health or development without the provision for him of services by a local authority;
- b) his health or development is likely to be significantly impaired, or further impaired, without the provision for him of such services; or
- c) he is disabled.

4.5.3 Work is currently being undertaken by the planning team, in consultation with partner agencies, to develop Social Services eligibility criteria for children and families in Denbighshire. More accurate demographic information is expected to be reproduced over the next 5 years as a result of linking the Assessment Framework for Children in Need to the Care.Comm electronic client information base.

4.6 Referrals and service provision

4.6.1 The Service's Intake and Assessment Teams based in the South and North of the County have the key role of dealing with requests for services.

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4.6.2 Table 6 shows the total number of new referrals dealt with during the period 1st April 2001 to 31st March 2002. An analysis is also provided of the type of services provided.

Table 6

Numbers of Referrals and Services Provided 1st April 2001 to 31st March 2002		
	South Denbighshire	North Denbighshire
Total no. of new referrals dealt with:	563	2,179
Child Protection Investigations	92	151
Family Preventative Work	42	147
Advice/Information	395	1,612
New Looked After Children	8	28
Financial Assistance		199
Video Interviews (Child Protection)		15

The type of referrals received is shown in Table 7.

Table 7

New Referrals - Reason for Referral		
	South Denbighshire	North Denbighshire
Emotional Abuse	13	90
Physical Abuse	33	129
Sexual Abuse	25	112
Other Abuse/Neglect	44	346
Separated from Parents	6	50
Parent's Ability Impaired	14	153
Death of Parent	1	1
Financial Problems	5	285
Severe Family Problems	28	359
Homelessness	7	43
Challenging Behaviour	15	197
Substance/Alcohol /Drug	6	28
Criminal Offences	5	33
Child's Disability	10	36
Not Known	158	52
Others	6	29

4.6.3 Looked After Children

4.6.4 On 31st March 2002, there were a total of 104 children looked after. These children were in the following age range:

Table 8

Age 0 - 4	24
Age 5 - 11	34
Age 12 - 15	23
Age over 16	23
Total	104

The type of placements where these children were placed were as follows:

Table 9

Foster Care	86
Childrens Homes	7
Placements other than Foster Care of Childrens Homes	11
Total	144

4.6.5 By 20 May 2002, a total of 13 children were placed in residential establishments. The type of placements were as follows:

Table 10

Bryn y Wal	5
Out of County Residential	6
Hospital Adolescent Unit	1
Detention and Training Centre	1

4.6.6 The Matching Needs and Services exercise undertaken by the Dartington Record Unit in September 2001 provides a useful analysis of 88 children who had been looked after for more than three months at that time.

4.6.7 A full report is available but these are some of the highlights regarding the needs of children:

Table 11

62% were subject to a Care Order
41% were on the Child Protection Register when they became looked after
35% became looked after in an emergency
35% were aged 5 or younger when they first became looked after
39% of the children had been seriously harmed by their mother
41% of the children had been seriously harmed by their father
76% of the children had experienced poor parenting
59% of the children had suffered neglect
47% of the children had behavioural problems at home
21% of the parents has a chronic mental health problem
21% of the parents were known to abuse drugs
74% of the children had parents suffering from stress or inability to cope

4.6.8 Child Protection

4.6.9 On 31st March 2002 there were a total of 62 children on Denbighshire's Child Protection Register. The categories of registration for these children were as follows:

Table 12

Neglect	27
Physical Abuse	9
Sexual Abuse	9
Emotional Abuse	15
Neglect, physical and sexual abuse	1
Neglect and physical abuse	1
Total	62

Ages of Children on Register

Table 13

Age	Nos of Boys	Nos of Girls
Under 1	3	4
Age 1 - 4	6	6
Age 5 - 9	16	9
Age 10 - 15	14	3
Age 16 - 18	0	0
Total	39	22

Home Location of Children whose names were on the Register on 26th April 2002

Table 14

Rhyl	41
Denbigh	14
St Asaph	3
Prestatyn	3
Llangollen	1
Ruthin (Village Outside)	1
Corwen	2
Total	65

4.6.10 Children with Disabilities

4.6.11 When a Caseload Analysis for Social Workers in the Children with Disabilities Team was undertaken in January 2002, the team was involved with a total of 208 children who have a disability. The schools attended by these children include:

Table 15

Tir Morfa	81
Ysgol Gogarth	4
Ysgol y Graig	17
Ysgol Brondyffryn	17

4.6.12 There is a voluntary joint register of children with disabilities or chronic ill health in Denbighshire. In June 2002, there were 170 children on the register, which is held by Dr Sarah Horrocks, Consultant Community Paediatrician, with the Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust.

4.6.13 Caseload Analysis - January 2002

4.6.14 In January 2002 all Social Workers and Parent Support Workers in Children's Services were asked to complete Caseload Details forms in which they were asked to provide an estimate of the workload rating for each case.

4.6.15 The total number of cases being dealt with at that particular time (by those who completed the forms) were as follows:

Table 16

Looked After Children	141
Children on Child Protection Register	52
Children with Disabilities	208
Children in Need (general)	164

4.6.16 Team members were also asked to provide a workload rating for each case. The results were as follows:

Table 17

Extremely high	52
High	131
Medium	193
Low	171
Inactive	12

4.3.17 Carers, Parent/Carers and Young Carers

4.6.18 In Denbighshire, a multi agency Carers Strategy Group has developed a strategy for carers in Denbighshire, based initially on needs identified at a Carers Conference held in March 1999. These include the need for better information, greater involvement in planning services, improved joint working between agencies, action to promote the health and well being of carers and an increased provision of respite breaks.

4.6.19 The Carers and Disabled Children Act (2000) gives local authorities powers and duties in regard to:

- Carers (aged 16 or over) who provide or intend to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for another individual aged 18 or over;
- People with parental responsibility for a disabled child who provide or intend to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for the child;
- Disabled 16 and 17 year old young people.

4.6.20 Denbighshire Social Services is committed to developing and improving its assessments of carers needs. The Department has introduced a Direct Payments scheme, so that these needs can be met either by direct services or by cash payments. The Direct Payments Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from carers groups, will continue to meet regularly to support the continuing development of the scheme in Denbighshire.

4.6.21 NCH Cymru Young Carers Project is funded by Denbighshire County Council to provide a range of support services to children and young people who act as carers.

4.6.22 National surveys of carers have repeatedly demonstrated the need for breaks services, including the need for choice and a range of breaks services to meet the individual needs of carers. These national findings are borne out by local consultation exercises carried out in Denbighshire and described in detail in the

Denbighshire Carers Grant Plan 2000 - 2001. At present, there is still limited information on the need and demand for Carers Services as described in the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000.

4.7 RESOURCES

4.7.1 The Department budget for 2002 - 2003 is £23,210,542. The broad distribution of this budget is:

Figure 1.

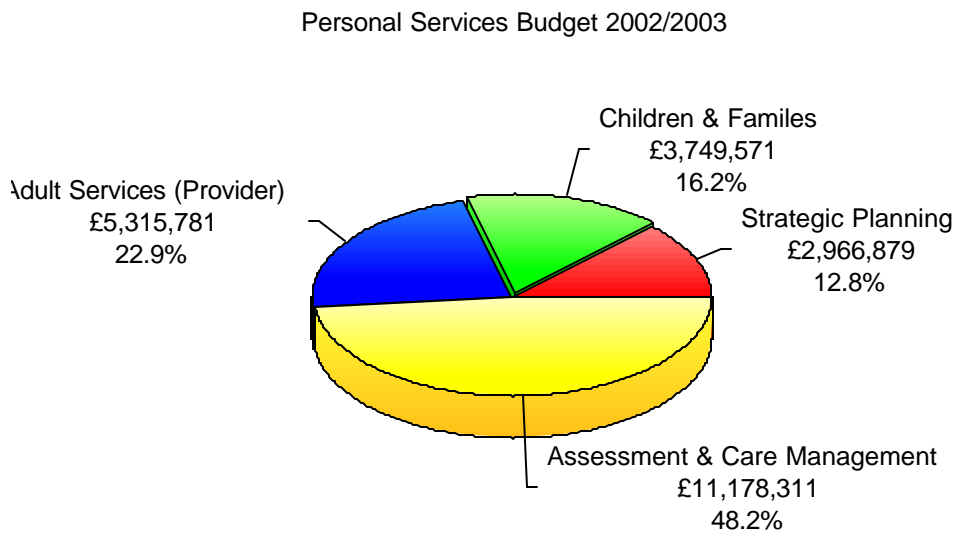


Figure 2.

Strategic Planning

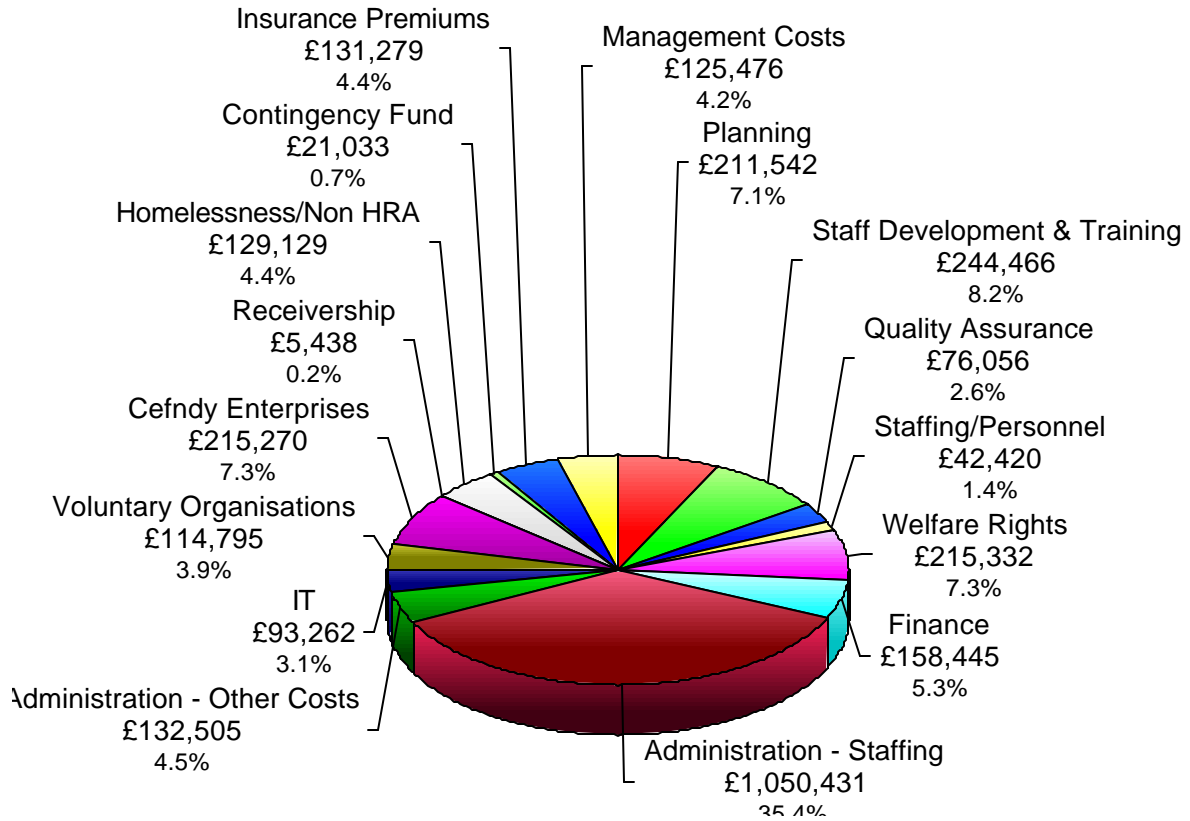


Figure 3.

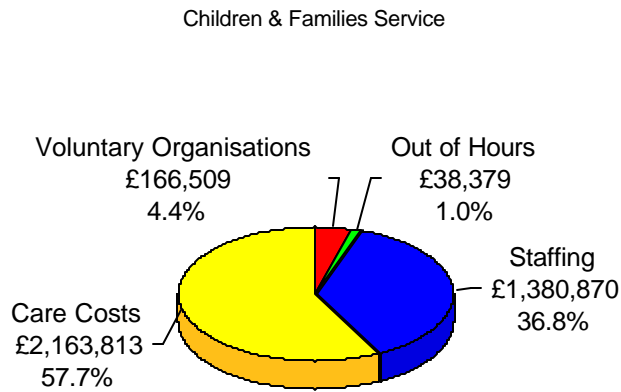
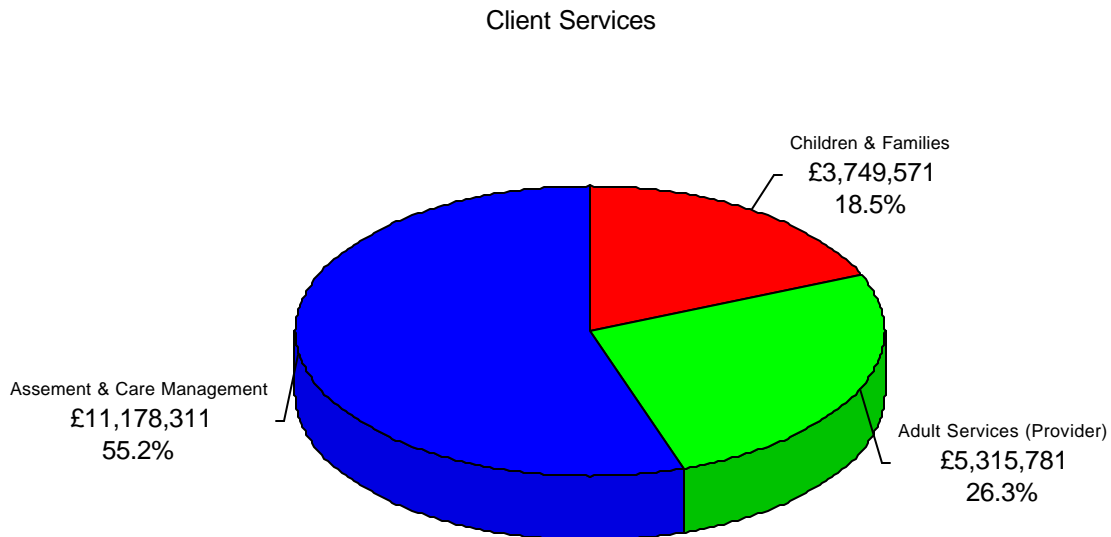


Figure 4.



4.7.2 The Service Outputs and Inputs tables for Child and Family Services (*Appendix 3*) provide a detailed breakdown of these budgets and link them to service activity.

4.7.3 The Department has not made significant shifts in realigning resources and this has been as a result of:

- (a) inadequate information to inform and drive change;
- (b) inability to unlock resources currently committed to high cost, and in some instances, poor quality services; and
- (c) severe resource constraint.

- 4.7.4 Improved financial performance in 2001/02 (variance £8,614), together with the Authority successfully implementing its financial recovery plan, means that 2002/03 provides a good opportunity to drive forward policy led change.
- 4.7.5 Concerns remain that resources for the Directorate as a whole may not match the Authority's aspirations. In Adult Services, the transfer of funds from the National Assembly regarding Preserved Rights and Residential Care Allowance may be inadequate. In Children's Services, the numbers of Looked After Children has risen from 112 in 2000 to 140 in 2002. Therefore there is an increasing number of children entering foster care resulting in additional pressure on this budget, currently £522,000. It is estimated that the fostering budget may overspend by £300,000 by the end of the year. There is clearly a need to develop a comprehensive, updated Placement Strategy and Family Support strategy to address this particular issue. It also reinforces the need to realign resources and to use them more effectively, particularly in partnership with other agencies. The Department will take full advantage of the new financial flexibilities and is moving toward joint investment plans with Health.

4.8 IMPROVING SERVICES THROUGH BEST VALUE

- 4.8.1 The statutory duty to achieve Best Value applied from 1 April 2000. Work undertaken in relation to Home Care has led to the Council approving a programme of measured externalisation, and to improvements in Fostering and Adoption Services. The Best Value report on foster carer services is due to be completed by July 2002, and is expected to produce an action plan for service improvement.
- 4.8.2 The Wales Programme for Improvement sets out a new approach to Best Value in Wales, and requires a whole authority analysis leading to a risk assessment which in turn forms the basis of the improvement plan. The Authority has begun work on this agenda, and social services will align its Business Planning processes accordingly.

5. EVALUATIONS OF EXISTING SERVICES

- 5.1 The Social Services Department was restructured in 2000, and the following teams now exist within Children's Services:

Table 18

Team	Location
Family Placement Team	Cefndy Children's Resource Centre
Children with Disabilities Team	Cefndy Children's Resource Centre
Child Care Team (North)	Cefndy Children's Resource Centre
Child Care Team (South)	Ruthin Local Office
Intake and Assessment Team (South)	Ruthin Local Office
Intake and Assessment Team (North)	Rhyl Local Office, Morfa Hall
Sessional Work Service	Cefndy Children's Resource Centre

Please refer to Appendix 1 for a description of services provided.

6. NEW OBJECTIVES AND QUANTIFIED TARGETS

6.1 PRIMARY OBJECTIVES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES

- ◆ To undertake quality assessments that result in the most appropriate use of resources.
- ◆ To effectively undertake our legislative duties towards children and families and comply with relevant policies and procedures.
- ◆ To produce and implement the Children's Services Plan.
- ◆ To review and develop services according to the requirements of Best Value.
- ◆ To ensure that children are supported within their own families if this is consistent with their safety and the promotion of their welfare.
- ◆ Implementing all aspects of the Children First Programme effectively.
- ◆ To ensure effective deployment of all resources available to children in need and their families by establishing and maintaining partnerships with other Directorates, statutory agencies, voluntary organisations and independent providers.
- ◆ To monitor services so that they meet identified standards and to ensure the most effective service development and delivery.
- ◆ To inform service users, carers and the public of the services available to them.
- ◆ To regularly consult service users and carers in order to ensure services are developed effectively.

6.2 KEY ISSUES

- ◆ The continual increase in the numbers of children becoming looked after is a matter of great concern. There is an insufficient number of placements to meet their needs and far too many children suffer placement breakdowns. The Children's Services budget continues to be greatly overspent as a result of this issue. There is an urgent need to strengthen preventive services and to draw upon the 'Matching Needs and Services' exercise recently undertaken in order to inform the work.
- ◆ The quality of assessments undertaken with 'children in need' needs to greatly improve and it is vital to work more closely with Health and Education in supporting families. High priority is being given to the proper implementation of the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families.
- ◆ There is a need to ensure that existing resources are utilised as effectively as possible in meeting the needs of children and families. These include the new resources developed as part of the Sure Start and Children and Youth Partnership Fund Programme. A thorough review of Family Centres has already been completed and there is now a need to develop them so that they meet the needs of Social Services users more effectively.

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- ◆ Following the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales inspection report on Denbighshire's Child Protection Services, an Action Plan has been prepared and the implementation of this will be of extreme importance during the next 12 months.
- ◆ The Authority will continue to be monitored very closely by the National Assembly for Wales on the implementation of our Children First Programme. There is a continual need to make improvements in performance against all eleven objectives of the Programme. (Further details are provided in the Children First Action Plan).
- ◆ Effective management information systems need to be developed for gathering information on a regular basis about; needs identified, assessments, reviews, services provided, outcomes etc. The new Care.Com client information system is expected to make this possible, but major improvements are also needed in the input of information by staff.
- ◆ It is felt that demands on the Service continue to grow and that the needs presented are becoming more complex. Eligibility Criteria developed within the service will set out the priority needs for the service. A Workload Management System will also be developed.
- ◆ An up to date Placement Strategy needs to be developed and key decisions will need to be taken about the future shape of the Foster Plus Scheme and our utilisation of residential services. A review has already been undertaken of Bryn Y Wal, but there is now an urgent need to review its Statement of Purpose and Function. Best Value methodology needs to be applied to all the above work.
- ◆ Services for Children with emotional or mental health disorders will need to be revised in the light of the new CAMHS Strategy. This requires, for example social work staff to provide more support themselves to children and young people defined as being in 'Tier 1'.
- ◆ All aspects of the Children (Leaving Care Act) 2000 will need to be implemented as soon as possible. The Key elements of this include:
 - the appointment of a Personal Advisor for each eligible young person
 - the preparation of a Pathway Plan for each eligible young person
 - the provision of a suitable range of accommodation
 - new financial arrangements
- ◆ It is of vital importance that high quality services are provided for children with disabilities and their families. Services for children with disabilities should benefit from the following initiatives:
 - the creation of a full time Reviewing Officer post for looked after children.

- the transfer of the Project Work Service to Barnardos
- the development of a care co-ordination scheme.

- ◆ There is a need to strengthen consultation mechanisms within the service. Recently the Consultative Forum for looked after children was re-launched and the first meeting was regarded as a success. With regard to children with disabilities, a number of successful consultation events have taken place. However, for the wider group of children in need and their families there is a need to greatly improve consultation mechanisms.

6.3 STRATEGY

- ◆ An absolute priority for the service is to contain spending within the projected budget, whilst ensuring that the Children First Action Plan is implemented as successfully as possible. (Our performance regarding the matter will be closely monitored by the National Assembly for Wales). In the context of increased demands in certain service sections, and the need to raise standards across the service, the introduction of suitable eligibility criteria is a priority.

- ◆ There is also a need to secure additional resources for preventative services, in order to reduce the demand for acute services in the future. This includes maximising the use of resources available under the Children & Youth Partnership Fund and Sure Start. Longer term, it entails closer working relationships with partner Directorates and agencies, and the development of joint strategies, particularly with the Health Authority and the Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust.

7. PROPOSALS FOR MANAGING CHANGE

- 7.1 A radical review of how services are provided is essential given the increasing demands on the service, the difficulties in providing essential resources, the high costs of residential care and the growth of the independent fostering sector. In developing services for the future the following elements will be crucial:
- Close co-operation with neighbouring authorities who face the same challenges
 - Being able to demonstrate Best Value
 - A Performance management Culture
 - A closer working relationship with the independent sector.
 - Accurate information regarding needs/demands/services provided/outcomes.

7.2 CHANGES TO STRATEGIC PLANNING

- 7.2.1 Two related proposals have been made which will have an impact on strategic planning and development within Social Services during the period of this Strategic Plan.

7.3 Social Services - Proposed Restructuring

- 7.3.1 A review has been undertaken of the very challenging programme of change faced by the Social Services Department and it's partners, particularly arising from Welsh Assembly Government agenda, Denbighshire's modernisation programme, demography, work force difficulties and increasing public expectations. During 2002/03, some modifications to the structure of the department are proposed to help manage these changes effectively over the next 5 years. Ensuring sufficient management and leadership capacity at senior level, speeding up the implementation of performance management and driving forward work force strategy and customer care strategy are some of the particular objectives of the restructuring programme.
- 7.3.2 Proposals for restructuring Social Services were approved in principle by the Cabinet of elected members on May 7th 2002. It is intended to conclude this process by the end of July 2002. The main objectives of the restructuring proposals are:
- To strengthen senior management arrangements for Children's Services and enable compliance with relevant recommendations of the Adrienne Jones report and the Waterhouse Report (i.e. that one senior manager should have overall responsibility for operational and policy direction);
 - To further implement performance management arrangements by supplementing resources available for performance management and locating

support staff under the same operational line management as operational services;

- To outline structural arrangements for the strategic housing function in the event that council housing stock is transferred;
- To resource key functions which need more attention in a modern Social Services Dept, such as workforce strategy, customer care strategy, e-government, and communications;
- To align senior management arrangements more clearly with key corporate priorities, and with the management arrangements of internal partners (especially Education) and of external partners (especially Health).

7.4 Proposed Revision of Planning Formats

7.4.1 A report was approved in principle by the Departmental Management Team on 13 May 2002, which if implemented will reduce the current complexity and number of plans, by:

- bringing together the Welsh Assembly Government, corporate and departmental requirements into one co-ordinated set of plans; and
- linking plans clearly to a performance management framework.

7.4.2 The model is based on Welsh Assembly Government Guidance (2000) which followed Building for the Future, and is comprised of two components:

- A. **Five year strategic plans**, one for Adults and one for Children's services, based on agreed inter-agency objectives; broad five year projections of needs; performance targets; measurement and management proposals and proposed service developments. These plans will form the Department's Commissioning Strategy, and will be approved through relevant political processes within the Authority and health authority and have been notified to the local press. The strategic plan for children would include early years, children in need, young carers, transition to adulthood and other factors influencing social inclusion.
- B. **Annual Services Plans** for each service area in a form that meets the corporate requirements for service planning, departmental requirements for business planning and performance management, and Welsh Assembly Government guidance.

APPENDIX 1

MAIN SERVICES PROVIDED

Social Work Services

Social Workers carry out assessments of need and may provide children and families with advice, support and services regarding a wide range of issues, for example, difficulties in coping, relationship problems affecting the welfare of children, child protection issues, the needs of children with disabilities, the needs of children involved in offences and behavioural difficulties.

Out of office hours, if families need help on an emergency basis, contact can be made with Denbighshire's Emergency Duty Social Work Service.

Social work support for 'looked after' children involves; promoting the welfare of children, ensuring that the standard of care they receive is of the highest quality, visiting children at regular intervals, ensuring that children are able to make their views known and preparing Care Plans and information for statutory reviews.

Residential Care

The needs of children and young people requiring residential care are currently met through a combination of county and out of county placements.

Bryn y Wal residential unit is managed by NCH Action for Children and offers four placements for young people who have been assessed as in need of the service. Individual 'packages of care' are designed to meet the needs of the individual young person.

For a small number of children and young people it is not possible to meet their particular needs within local provision, and it is necessary to make arrangements for them to be placed in out of county establishments.

Fostering

Services are provided for children who are looked after by the local authority. Children who are unable to live with their own family for all sorts of reasons and for variable periods of time - which may be overnight, a few days, regular weekends, months, years or permanently - need to be placed in alternative care arrangements. For children who have been in care for more than two years or for whom permanency has been identified at an earlier stage as best meeting their needs, adoption should be considered as an option.

Adoption

Denbighshire Social Services Department is an approved Adoption Agency providing services to: children who have been or may be adopted, birth parents and relatives, adopters and prospective adopters and adults who were adopted as children.

Children with Disabilities

The following range of services is available for children with disabilities and their parents/carers: assessments, social work support, advice, advocacy and counselling, equipment and adaptations, respite care/holiday programmes, day care, occupational therapy and project work support.

Hospital Social Work

A social work service for the children's wards at Glan Clwyd Hospital is available to children and their families/carers who are hospital in-patients or attending outpatients. This service focuses on children whose identified health and child care problems are having a severe effect on the child's and family's functioning and well-being.

Leaving Care and After Care Support

The Social Services Department provides important services to looked after young people who need support in leaving care. They include: undertaking social work assessments, the preparation of Pathway Plans, providing young people with the skills that they need when leaving care, identifying suitable accommodation and ensuring that the young person is supported financially.

Children with Mental Health Disorders

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service based at Lawnside, Olinda Street in Rhyl, provides a comprehensive range of services for children and young people up to the age of 18 years who are experiencing mental health disorders. Two Social Workers employed by Denbighshire Social Services form part of this multidisciplinary team.

The team provides a comprehensive individual and family assessment service. The disorders that the team deals with include emotional disorders (e.g. phobias, anxiety states, depression), conduct disorder (e.g. stealing, fire-setting, aggression, antisocial behaviour), eating disorders (e.g. pre-school eating problems, anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa), Psychotic disorders (e.g. schizophrenia, manic depression and depression), habit disorders (e.g. sleeping problems, soiling) and post traumatic stress disorder.

Child Protection

The identification and protection of children who are at risk of significant harm requires close co-operation between all agencies. Joint working arrangements are well established and co-ordinated in Denbighshire by the Area Child Protection Committee which is made up of senior officers from Social Services, Education, Police, Probation, Health and the voluntary sector.

The Social Services Department's Intake and Assessment teams respond to all referrals where there is an allegation of child abuse or likelihood of significant harm. The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their families requires the completion of core assessments in these cases.

A decision may be taken to place a child or children on the *Child Protection Register* which is maintained by Social Services. In some cases, legal action through the courts may be the best way to safeguard the welfare of a child. The service works closely with the County Council Legal Department in these situations.

If a child's name is placed on the Child Protection register, there is a need to develop a Child Protection Plan and social workers have a key role in implementing this plan in partnership with other key agencies and the family.

Sure Start

Sure Start involves a partnership of the local authority, health services and voluntary organisations working closely together to develop non-stigmatising services for very young children and their families. A part-time Sure Start Co-ordinator is employed within Denbighshire Social Services. Reference should be made to Denbighshire's Sure Start Plan for a full description of the services available under this programme.

Children First

Children First is a major five year programme designed to transform the management and delivery of social services for children. It applies to children in need, children receiving child protection services and children looked after. Denbighshire has been allocated £430,046, plus a recurring £147,001 base budget, by the National Assembly for Wales to implement the programme for 2002/03. Social Services also contributes to projects as described in 1.1 of the Children First programme (see Part 2). Further details of this programme can be seen in Denbighshire's Children First Action Plan and related documents. (*See Part 2*).

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APPENDIX 2

OUTCOMES AND TARGETS AGAINST NAW PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

		All Wales Average 00 - 01	Data 00 - 01	Target 00 - 01	Data 01 - 02	Target 01 - 02	Target 02 - 03
	Standard						
NAWPI 3.1	Stability of placements of children looked after by the authority by reference to the percentage of children looked after on 31st March in any year with three or more placements during that year.	7.0%	5.15%	Not Set	7.69%	<10%	12%
NAWPI 3.2	Educational qualifications of children looked after (interface indicator with education services) by reference to the percentage of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 1 GCSE at Grades A - G, or General National Vocational Qualification	42%	Not available	Not Set	85.71%		86%
NAWPI 3.3	% of young people in care on their 16th birthday who have a suitable plan for their continuing care.	Average n/a	62.5%	N/a	28.57	100%	100%
NAWPI 3.4	% of first placements for looked after children beginning with a care plan in place (children).	Average n/a	85% (estimate)	85%	10.77	95%	95%
NAWPI 3.5	Costs of services for children looked after by the authority by reference to gross weekly expenditure per looked after child in foster care or in a children's home.	£331.00	£424.69	N/a	£396.80	£400.00	£415.00

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NAWPI 3.12	Percentage of children on child protection register whose cases that should have been reviewed were reviewed	84%	63.64%	100%	71.70%	100%	100%
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NB Please also refer to the Denbighshire Children First Summary Action Plan which gives baseline figures and targets for the Children First Objectives.

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**APPENDIX 3
SOCIAL SERVICES - MAIN OUTPUTS AND INPUTS**

Main Service Outputs & Inputs	2002/2003							Staffing Change
	Budget £	New* Develop. £	Planned** Reduction £	Target Unit	Cash Limited Budget £	Projected Spend £	Variance £	
Outputs								
Adoptions: placements made	22,097				22,097	32,546	10,449	
Emergency Duty Team contacts	38,379				38,379	45,000	6,621	
Foster Home Placements	322,685	200,000			522,685	818,285	295,600	
Residential Placements (Bryn y Wal)	378,852				378,852	430,849	51,997	
Residential Placements (Out of County)	918,110				918,110	695,023	-223,087	
Training Programme	51,000				51,000	25,000	-26,000	
Social Work Support - Children With Disabilities								
Remodelling - Service Strategy	142,800				142,800	75,000	-67,800	
Implementation of Child Protection plans								
Support to Children in family centres	81,600				81,600	82,040	440	
Sponsoring of Children - Private Day Care	43,357				43,357	49,500	6,143	
Voluntary Organisations	166,509				166,509	156,663	-9,846	
Children with Disabilities placed in Respite Care (Fostering)								
Children with Disabilities placed in Respite Care (Residential)	41,375				41,375	50,000	8,625	
Children with Disabilities (Other Respite Care Placements)								
Child Protection Referrals dealt with by Social Workers								
Children with Disabilities given Project Work Support	30,600				30,600	2,500	-28,100	

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Reviews completed (Looked After Children)								
Case Conferences held								
Children Leaving Care Supported	18,253	35,000			53,253	40,460	-12,793	
Advice and Support given (Duty)								
Section 17 Payments made	20,198				20,198	18,801	-1,397	
Inputs								
Social Workers	1,008,184	50,684			1,058,868	1,048,974	-9,894	3
Sessional Work staff	51,283				51,283	65,009	13,726	
Project Workers (Children with Disabilities)	105,432				105,432	131,467	26,035	
Adoption income	-12,546				-12,546	-12,546	0	
Children First Grant (Cash £430,046)								
Parent Support Workers	74,463				74,463	116,596	42,133	
Independent Reviewing Officer/Child Protection Co-ordinator	39,826				39,826	39,241	-585	
NVQ Assessor		30,708			30,708	30,939	231	1
Team Managers x 5	159,304	38,206			197,510	217,211	19,701	1
Accommodation Support Worker		10,000			10,000	17,327	7,327	1
Senior Practitioners x 2		65,448			65,448	49,804	-15,644	2
Service Manager x 1	47,810				47,810	50,010	2,200	
Total	3,749,571	430,046			4,179,617	4,275,699	96,082	

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New Developments								
	2003/2004							
Main Service Outputs & Inputs	Budget £	New Develop. £	Planned Reductions £	Target Units	Revised Budget £	Projecte d Spend £	Variance £	Staffing Change
Outputs								
Adoptions: placements made	22,760				22,760	33,522	10,762	
Emergency Duty Team contacts	39,530				39,530	46,350	6,820	
Fostering	332,366	200,000			532,366	842,834	310,468	
Residential Placements (Bryn y Wal)	390,218				390,218	443,774	53,556	
Residential Placements (Out of County)	945,653				945,653	633,363	-312,290	
Training Programme	52,530				52,530	25,750	-26,780	
Remodelling - Service Strategy	147,084				147,084	77,250	-69,834	
Support to Children in family centres	84,048				84,048	84,501	453	
Sponsoring of Children - Private Day Care	44,658				44,658	50,985	6,327	
Voluntary Organisations	171,504				171,504	161,363	-10,141	
Children with Disabilities placed in Respite Care (Residential)	42,616				42,616	51,500	8,884	
Children with Disabilities given Project Work Support	31,518				31,518	32,464	946	
Children Leaving Care Supported	18,801	35,000			53,801	41,674	-12,127	
Section 17 Payments made	20,804				20,804	19,365	-1,439	
Inputs								
Social Workers	1,038,430	109,354			1,147,784	1,080,443	-67,341	
Sessional Work Staff	52,821				52,821	66,959	14,138	
Project Workers (Children with Disabilities)	108,595				108,595	135,411	26,816	

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Adoption income	-12,922				-12,922	-12,922	0
Children First Grant (Cash £493,046)							
Parent Support Workers	76,697				76,697	120,094	43,397
Independent Reviewing Officer/Child Protection Co-ordinator	41,021				41,021	42,252	1,231
NVQ Assessor		31,629			31,629	31,867	238
Team Managers x 5	164,083	39,352			203,435	209,538	6,103
Accommodation Support Worker		10,300			10,300	17,847	7,547
Senior Practitioners x 2		67,411			67,411	67,411	0
Service Manager x 1	49,244				49,244	51,510	2,266
TOTAL	3,862,059	493,046			4,355,105	4,355,105	0

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Inputs								
Social Workers	1,069,583				1,069,583	1,055,825	-13,758	
Sessional Work Staff	54,406				54,406	54,406	0	
Project Workers (Children with Disabilities)	111,853				111,853	111,853	0	
Adoption Income	-13,310				-13,310	-20,000	-6,690	
Children First Grant (Cash)								
Parent Support Workers	78,998				78,998	78,998	0	
Independent Reviewing Officer/Child Protection Co-ordinator	42,252				42,252	42,252	0	
Team Managers x 5	169,005				169,005	169,005	0	
Senior Practitioners x 2								
Service Manager x 1	50,721				50,721	50,721	0	
Total	3,977,922				3,977,922	3,977,922	0	

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APPENDIX 4
CHILD PROTECTION INSPECTION ACTION PLAN

Reco. No.	Action to be taken	Date to be completed
No.1	<p>a) Draft Eligibility Criteria will be introduced during May 2002 and the final version will be implemented with effect from October 2002. These will build on the guidance already issued on defining ' children in need' and will specifically state what type of actions might be required and the timescales involved.</p> <p>b) An user friendly version of the Eligibility Criteria will be produced for service users and social work staff will be required to give a copy of this when a request for service is made at the first point of contact.</p> <p>c) The introduction of the new Criteria will be linked to The Framework for The Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families so that there is as much clarity as possible regarding the different services which might be available following the Initial and Core Assessments.</p> <p>d) The Eligibility Criteria will be produced so that there is special reference to particular groups of children and young people, e.g. children in need, children whose names are on the child protection register, children with disabilities, children who are looked after, young people leaving care and children with mental health needs.</p> <p>e) A copy of the Eligibility Criteria will be made available to all social workers in their 'Essential Information for Childcare Social Workers ' folders. Reference to the procedure will also be included in the Child Care Procedures Manual. Managers will be expected to closely monitor the implementation of the new criteria.</p> <p>f) The new Eligibility Criteria will be made known to all relevant agencies via the ACPC and Denbighshire's Strategic Planning Forum.</p> <p>g) More effective systems will be introduced for regular monitoring and scrutiny of child care policies and procedures.</p> <p>f) A new chapter to address child protection procedures will be included in the Child Care Procedures Manual. This will supplement the All- Wales Child Protection Procedures and will provide more specific guidance to social work staff and their managers.</p>	October 2002
No.2	<p>A) A proposal for enhancing management arrangements at senior level in the Department is being prepared for consultation. Implementation is expected to be completed by September 02</p> <p>b) New post of Reviewing Officer for ' looked after' children will be established. This will enable one officer to concentrate on the role of Child Protection Co-ordinator on a full time basis. (Currently, one officer undertakes the two functions). This action should considerably strengthen both functions.</p>	B) September 2002
No.3	<p>a) The existing Children Services Plan will be revised as a matter of urgency. This will make reference to operational standards and performance indicators. In accordance with recent guidance from the Assembly, the Plan will also form the Children First Action Plan.</p> <p>b) A proposal for enhancing management arrangements at senior level in the Department is being prepared for consultation. Implementation is expected to be completed by September 02.</p>	July 2002

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	<p>c) The Social Services Planning Team has now been strengthened with an additional Planning Officer specifically for children's services .</p> <p>d) The introduction of a new client information system in July 2002 will be expected to provide much better management information on a regular basis.</p> <p>e) Clearer terms of reference will be developed for the existing Child Care Planning and Development Group so that the regular monitoring of the implementation of the Childrens' Services Plan takes place. Both the ACPC and the Children's Strategic Planning Forum will undertake this role in relation to inter-agency objectives.</p>	
	<p>f) Steps will be taken to ensure that front line staff are more familiar with the contents of the C.S.P ., e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be more involved in its preparation • Final Plan to be presented in Service meeting and considered in detail with all staff • Summary version to be produced 	
No.4	<p>a)The inter-agency Family Support Development Group was re-launched in January 2002 and it will be given the task of developing a Family Support Strategy by September 2002. This work will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gathering up to date information regarding needs • audit of current service provision • identifying gaps in service provision • arranging consultation with service users and relevant stakeholders • preparing a draft strategy document for consideration by Members, the ACPC and the Strategic Planning Forum. <p>b) The Family Support Development Group will be expected to make clear links with the Sure Start Programme and the CYPF in developing the Strategy.</p> <p>c) A fundamental review of family centres has already been completed and urgent steps will be taken to ensure that they have a stronger preventive role in relation to child protection issues . For example, stronger links will be developed between the centres and Social Services.</p> <p>d) Service level agreements which exist with voluntary organisations will be reviewed as part of the Family Support Strategy. They will address the issues referred to in par. 3.33</p> <p>e) An up to date resource directory will be produced following the audit of services referred to in (a) above.</p> <p>f) The introduction of the new Framework in April 2002 will ensure that clear timescales exist regarding the assessment of need and steps will be taken to avoid delays in the provision of services. For example, Team Managers will be expected to closely monitor this as part of Supervision.</p> <p>g)The delays in accessing the CAMHS service is a national issue and needs to be addressed by the Assembly. However, it is hoped that the implementation of the new CAMHS strategy will result in improvements</p>	September 2002
No.5	A review of job descriptions for all staff employed within children's services will be completed so that their functions and responsibilities are clearly set out.	October 2002
No.6	<p>a)This recommendation will be brought to the attention of all social workers and team managers .</p> <p>b)The ACPC sub-group responsible for training will also be asked to identify whether additional training is required in addition to that planned to take place in response to the new all-Wales Child Protection procedures.</p> <p>c)The new chapter in the Child Care Procedures Manual on child protection will emphasise the importance of focusing on the needs of individual children within the family.</p>	June 2002
No.7	a) Key information leaflets available from Children's Services are currently being revised. These will take account of the Department's Eligibility Criteria .	December 2002

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	<p>b) The Denbighshire County Council website in relation to children's services will also be revised .</p> <p>c)A Resource Directory will be prepared (see above)</p> <p>d)The existing information strategy of the Department will be revised and an inter-agency Information Strategy Group will be re-established in order to monitor the implementation of the strategy .</p> <p>e)The ACPC will produce a range of information leaflets in its own name and an ACPC website will be established.</p>	
No.8	a)The Department accepts that the number of welsh speaking social workers is low and this issue will be addressed by a Departmental Group which has been set up to address recruitment and retention difficulties.	August 2002
	<p>b)The need for a welsh speaker to be available for people calling in our Ruthin office will be addressed although it might be difficult for this to be a qualified social worker.</p> <p>c) Guidance will be issued to all staff on the importance of service users being given a choice in relation to the language they would like to use at the point of reception.</p>	
No.9	a)The Department, in partnership with other agencies , will assess the extent to which certain groups are marginalised within the county and a strategy will be prepared to address this.	September 2002
No.10	<p>a) Immediate steps will be taken to ensure that offices from which children's services are provided are properly signposted.</p> <p>b) Reception facilities at Cefndy have recently been improved ,but we accept that there is a need for an additional telephone line.</p> <p>c)There has not been much investment at the Rhyl office referred to in 3.46 in recent times because there has been a plan to move all the staff to alternative premises (which are also centrally located).If this is unlikely to happen within a period of 6 months ,arrangements will be made for the reception area to be improved .</p> <p>d)The issues raised in par 3.49 in relation to the availability of a loop system and interpreting services will be addressed as a matter of urgency.</p>	October 2002
No.11	The Child Care Procedures Manual will be revised so that a section on child protection is included. This will address the issues referred to in par.3.53 , par. 3.56 and par.3.78	December 2002
No.12	New guidance on record keeping has already been issued to social work staff and Team Managers .The guidance fully addresses the issues raised within this recommendation. The Department intends to arrange regular auditing of files in order to check compliance with the new guidance. Further training on record keeping will also be provided for staff.	Immediate
No.13	<p>a)The authority, together with the ACPC and the North Wales Child Protection Forum will arrange for a full audit to be undertaken of existing multi-agency policies and protocols and reference will be made to them in the ACPC Business Plan.</p> <p>b)The existing protocol for undertaking investigations with the police will be reviewed . Social Workers are already expected to follow the ' Memorandum of Good Practice'. In fact, para.3.2 of this states that only the interviewer should speak to the child throughout the interview.</p>	July 2002
No.14	a)At the time of the Inspection , one officer undertook the roles of both Child	June 2002

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	<p>Protection Coordinator and Reviewing Officer for looked after children. We now intend to establish a full time Child Protection Coordinator Post .</p> <p>In a full time post, the Child Protection Coordinator will be in a much better position to monitor, audit and evaluate practice in relation to procedures, policies and regulations. We will also have a greater capacity to hold conferences within the necessary timescales.</p> <p>b)The ACPC will be asked to consider the developments of suitable mechanisms to monitor compliance with procedures and policies.</p> <p>This could include auditing a selection of individual cases on a regular basis.</p>	
No.15	<p>The Social Services Department , in partnership with Health and Education, intends to fully implement ‘ The Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families’ from 1st April 2002 onwards.</p> <p>The implementation of this should result in much more structured and better quality assessments.</p>	April 2002
No.16	<p>As stated against Re., 11 above, the Department’s Child Care Procedures Manual are to be revised and specific guidance relating to the protection of children with disabilities will be provided.</p>	December 2002
No.17	<p>a)The introduction of the Framework should result in better identification of the needs of particularly vulnerable groups of children.</p> <p>b)Some Social Work teams are being strengthened by the creation of two new Senior Practitioner posts and we have already created an additional Team Manager post .</p> <p>c)Steps will be taken to increase the availability of advocacy services to children who are considered to be particularly vulnerable.</p> <p>d)The procedures which apply to the protection of children in residential care will be made clear to all social work staff and managers. The intention will be to prevent any confusion when children within Denbighshire’s residential unit are subjected to harm by other children in the unit.</p>	April 2002
No.18	<p>a) Systems will be introduced so that there is a much more rigorous management and oversight of cases of children whose names are on the child protection register. This will include random auditing of the quality of the work being undertaken and compliance with policies and procedures. The quality of staff supervision is of fundamental importance in relation to this issue and a new supervision policy clearly sets out the responsibilities of line managers in relation to the oversight of cases.</p> <p>b)Training on the new Framework and its implementation should improve the ability of social work staff to focus on the needs of individual children .The implementation of the new all Wales child protection procedures should also assist with this. The importance of focusing on the needs of individual children will be made clear to all staff in child protection training events and Team Managers will be expected to ensure that this takes place via supervision meetings.</p> <p>c)The importance of listening to children ,taking their views into account and ensuring they are made known in meetings such as case conferences will be made clear to all relevant staff. Training events, supervision and the revised procedures will all address this issue. The new record keeping guidance already addresses this issue .</p>	Immediate
No.19	<p>a)The Social Services Department is expected to develop performance management</p>	June 2002

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	<p>systems in response to recent guidance from the Assembly and these systems will apply to all aspects of the Department's work in child protection.</p> <p>b) Denbighshire's ACPC has recently identified the main performance indicators which apply to child protection work and it will receive quarterly reports which will track performance in relation to these indicators.</p> <p>c) The Social Services Department is already expected to report back to the Assembly on a regular basis on its implementation of the Children First Programme and Objective 3 is particularly important in relation to this issue.</p> <p>d) A new client information system is about to be introduced and this should enable us to obtain much better management information in relation to child protection work.</p> <p>e) Arrangements will be made for the random auditing of work on individual cases in order to ensure that intervention is properly focused on safeguarding children and promoting their welfare.</p>	
No.20	<p>a) A new Supervision Policy has been developed for the Department's Children's Services. This requires case discussions and decisions made at supervision to be recorded in case files. Both the new supervision policy and the record keeping policy require managers to examine case files.</p>	Immediate
	<p>b) The Department's Staff Development Review process is already expected to identify the training needs of individual members of staff and, based on these, team managers are expected to inform the Staff Development section of general training needs.</p>	
No.21	<p>The various actions identified in response to Recs. Nos.14, 18,19 & 20 should enable systems to be put in place which review and monitor practice more effectively.</p>	Up to June 2002
No.22	<p>The need for this has already been identified within the ACPC and changes will be made to the representation of Social Services so that we comply with 'Working Together'</p>	April 2002
No.23	<p>The Social Services Department is committed to having an effective role within the ACPC so that the numerous challenges facing child protection services such as those mentioned at 3.138 and in the ACPC Business Plan are fully addressed</p>	Immediate
No.24	<p>This work will be undertaken as part of the preparation of the new Children's Services Plan and Operational Plan for the Service.</p> <p>We will obtain up to date information about :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • current demands for child protection services • the resources which are available • the gaps which exist in provision • new demands created by developments such as the Framework <p>As mentioned in Par.3.142, work is being undertaken already to refine management and budget information.</p>	July 2002
No.25	<p>Team Managers are already responsible for managing the Section 17 budgets for their teams as stated in par.3.147. The £50 limit referred to in this paragraph no longer applies.</p>	Immediate

APPENDIX 5
SURE START SUMMARY PLAN (2002-2003)

The Sure Start Evaluation 2000-2001 identified that all Current Partners are providing a service in accordance with the National Sure Start Objectives and the requirements of Sure Start in Denbighshire. Thus the Plan for 2002-2003 retains all the existing partners. It extends the services that NCH Cymru provides to cover Denbigh without any increase in revenue as close scrutiny of the existing Budget has made funds available for this purpose. It also extends the services of Homestart, PSS Toy and Equipment Library and the Sure Start Health Visitor by an allocation of additional funds from the Budget 2002-2003. The above extension of services from existing partners is in accordance with both the National Assembly for Wales' vision for Sure Start and the findings in the Evaluation 2000-2001. Sure Start now has services in all Priority Areas, with some provision for families outside these areas, in accordance with Denbighshire's Plan 1999-2002.

The Sure Start Management group has taken into consideration the fact that over the course of a year, expenditure is variable and have thus agreed to allocate any underspends to:

- The Integrated Centre as proposed by the Child Care Partnership (Christchurch, Rhyl).
- Assisted Places Scheme operated by MYM and PPA Wales, for children with a disability, with priority to those in the Designated Areas.
- The Young Parents Support Project, to pay for up to two additional Child care places for children of school age parents.

CONTEXT & NEED

The Sure Start Plan takes into account the communities identified in the 2000-2001 Evaluation as being most in need (in accordance with the definition posed by the Children Act 1989), plus the areas defined as Priority Areas under Communities First (i.e Rhyl, South West Rhyl, Rhyl East, Upper Denbigh, Bodelwyddan, Meliden and Corwen). Thus this Plan provides a service in the following areas:

- Rhyl
- Rhyl East
- South West Rhyl
- Upper Denbigh
- Bodelwyddan (accessible to St Asaph & Rural)
- Meliden
- Corwen & Rural
- Ruthin & Rural
- Llangollen & Rural

Whilst neither Ruthin nor Llangollen feature as significant areas of need under either definition, it has been agreed that the services currently operational in these locations will be retained as both are rural communities where services are sparse and accessibility is

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problematic. There will need to be more intensive targeting of families in these areas to ensure that those families most in need have every opportunity and encouragement to utilise the services.

SURE START OBJECTIVES

- 1) Improving social and emotional development.
- 2) Improving health
- 3) Improving the ability to learn.
- 4) Strengthening families and communities.
- 5) Increasing productivity to operations.

SURE START PROJECTS IN DENBIGHSHIRE

Project 1: HOMESTART

Aim: Support to Families and Parents/Befriending and Social Support

Details of Project: Homestart visitors are volunteers who work in partnership alongside the statutory health and social services offering friendship, practical advice and support to families with young children in their own homes who are vulnerable to stress and/or isolation. It aims to provide a breathing space for parents and enables them to focus upon a recognised need, as recommended by health or social services' colleagues.

Project 2: PSS TOY & EQUIPMENT LIBRARY

Aim: To Support Good Quality Play, Learning & Childcare

Details of Project: This scheme is centrally based in Ruthin and provides a countywide bilingual service for pre-school children. The scheme maintains and loans appropriate toys and safety equipment, taking referrals from individuals, and both statutory and voluntary organisations.

Project 3: NCH OUTREACH SERVICE

Aim: To provide Outreach and Home Visiting Services.

Details of Project: NCH Action of Children provide a range of services under the Sure Start umbrella on a peripatetic basis serving the communities of south Denbighshire primarily. The service would have three elements: Drop-in provision (Health/Parent & Toddler Support); Parent craft groups (parenting skills/behaviour management/play); Home visiting scheme - offering more direct support for parents attending the above provision plus those in need who cannot attend the above services.

Project 4: NCH ACTION FOR CHILDREN SOUTH WEST RHYL

Aim: Support families and parents/befriending and social support

Details of Project: This proposal covers South West Rhyl and seeks to provide an intensive range of services to be provided at Rhyl Adventure Playground coupled with home visiting. It is hoped that this will become a multi-agency project involving the local community. Services to be provided could include: Drop-in Health Clinic; Parent support group; Group work; Drop-in Mother & Toddler Group; Outreach Work.

Project 5: WALES PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUPS ASSOCIATION (WPPA)

Aim: To support good quality play, learning and childcare experiences

Details of the Project: The WPPA's Special Needs Referral Scheme is designed to identify a child's difficulties early, be it learning, emotional, behavioural, physical, sensory or linguistic, in order that an appropriate level of support can be given to the child and family. We help parents to gain confidence to make the best use of their knowledge and resources for the benefit of themselves and their children, through formal and informal training. It is intended these groups will be run by parent committees, with appropriate support.

Project 6: MUDIAD YSGOLION MEITHRIN (MYM)

Aim: To support good quality play, learning and childcare experiences

Details of Project: Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin works closely with other agencies, both statutory and voluntary in order to promote the social and educational development of pre-school children. They operate an inclusive policy in respect of children with special needs, including disability, working closely in conjunction with significant others in catering for their needs. They also provide an assisted placement scheme which enables children who otherwise could not attend to benefit from the provision.

Project 7: YOUNG PARENTS SUPPORT PROJECT

Aim: Befriending and Social Support.

Details of Project: To provide parents of statutory school age children an opportunity to continue with their full time education. The Project will fund child care places with either registered childminders or in a registered day nursery in the locality of the young parents home to enable parents to continue with their full time education. The Project will provide advice, support and personal and social education to young people in their own premises, schools and youth clubs.

Project 8: SURE START PARENT SUPPORT WORKER

Aim: Befriending and Social Support for children and families in need across Denbighshire. Particular emphasis on priority areas.

Details of Project: This Project would enable 2 half time Parent Support Workers to work in partnership with parents to prevent family breakdown, promote child protection and prevent the need for statutory intervention.

Project 9: SURE START HEALTH VISITOR

Aim: Befriending, Social Support and guidance re Health/Development issues.

Details of Project: This full time post funded primarily out of the Health element of the Sure Start Budget covers the whole of the county but pays particular attention to families in the Priority Areas. The postholder works closely with existing Sure Start Projects both in group work and 1 : 1 situations. She also offers a referral service to families experiencing behaviour management problems. Again, emphasis will be placed on families in Priority Areas.

Project 10: DEVELOPMENT FUND

After the payment of the half time Sure Start Co-ordinator, a small fund will be left unallocated to cover publicity and promotion of Sure Start and to be called upon when a small grant could enable an existing Partner to develop its service further in accordance with the Sure Start Objectives.

Project 11: MONITORING, RESEARCH & EVALUATION

In accordance with the requirements of the National Assembly for Wales, Denbighshire will make available £15,010.52 for this purpose.

Project 12: BOOKSTART

Aim: Bookstart is based on the simple premise that babies who enjoy an early introduction to books benefit educationally, culturally, emotionally and socially.

Details of Project: The project will work in partnership with the existing Sure Start programmes and local health visitors. The member of staff would work alongside Health Visitors who currently distribute story sacks and provide a service to families who need either group or one to one input to enable them to promote reading and the use of libraries/ book loans via Team Project to their children. This project is based upon out-reach work so it can readily target families in the priority areas which will be the priority focus of its work.

Project 13: SURE START CO-ORDINATOR (18½ HOUR POST) AND ADMINISTRATOR (21 HOURS)

Aim: To facilitate the administration of Sure Start in Denbighshire in accordance with the 5 Sure Start Objectives stipulated by the National Assembly for Wales and the Targets as determined by Denbighshire.

Details of Project: This post is based in Ty Nant, Prestatyn but has a county-wide brief. The post-holder is expected to co-ordinate Denbighshire's Programme, complete the Planning, Evaluation and Monitoring tasks as required by the National Assembly and to be actively involved in both the National and North Wales Sure Start Forums.

APPENDIX 6
CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME 2002 -2005
(EXTRACT, pp3-4)

The Denbighshire Children and Youth Partnership programme links with other policies, strategies and developments within the County. It embraces the Government's emphasis on "Joined up solutions for joined up problems". The Denbighshire Children and Youth Partnership Programme, led by the Local Authority, developed in partnership with other key organisations through the forum of the Social Inclusion Management Group, will ensure that young people in Denbighshire are offered and can access, the highest quality and broadest range of appropriate opportunities. All the elements of the Programme support the County Council's adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Programme is central to Denbighshire County Council's work to promote social inclusion. It will include early and effective intervention to address barriers to children and young people's learning and will ensure that every child and young person has the fullest possible opportunity to maximise his or her potential. The Programme has strong crosscutting links with the strategies of the Crime Reduction Partnership and the Drug and Alcohol Local Action Team.

The programme is important in maintaining the present obligation to continue support to those provisions and strategies which are working effectively, share and build on existing good practice, and broaden access to existing and new opportunities for young people to actively participate in education, training and employment.

This proposal aims to build on the good work undertaken through the Social Inclusion Management Group and provider organisations.

The Social Inclusion Management Group Partnership, which has prepared this programme, aims to:

- Develop a coherent strategy to tackle the problems associated with disaffection in young people, truancy, under achievement and social exclusion.
- Provide a range of opportunities that seek to nurture and develop individuals' self confidence and self esteem and empower them to take control of their own futures.
- Encourage young people's inclusion and their contribution to the wider society of which they are part.
- Offer encouragement and support into Education, Training and Employment.

APPENDIX 7
NORTH WALES "PATHFINDER" HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (2000-2005)

The White Papers: *NHS Wales: Putting Patients First*, and *Strategic Framework*, formed the basis by which the NHS and its patients in North Wales should collectively develop strategic approaches to improve the health of the population. Health improvement involves everyone, and the Health Improvement Programme (HIP) will be the vehicle for developing comprehensive strategies, for the NHS, but also to co-ordinate the work of all other agencies that have a potential to improve health status in North Wales. The Interim Framework for HIP (February 1999), provided indications of the new structures that would be needed to move towards *joined up* thinking and action.

This Pathfinder HIP aims to summarise the main health and social threats to public health in North Wales, and highlight areas where long-term planning will be imperative. It will set a 3-5 year agenda, to guide:

- The commissioning activity of the North Wales Health Authority.
- Commissioning and primary care activity of the Local Health Groups.
- The newly reconfigured NHS Trusts.
- Partnership and collaboration of all NHS agencies with other public sector voluntary, and private sector agencies.

and provide:

- A framework for primary, secondary and specialist configuration which takes account of clinical issues, accessibility, affordability considerations, and the views of local people.
- Comprehensive and integrated action plans improve the health of local people across a range of health gain areas.
- A guide to improving stewardship of public resources.

The delivery of high quality health care remains a central theme of the strategy to improve health. The HIP will reflect the following principles for the NHS:

- Integration of care.
- Putting quality at the top of the agenda.
- Being responsive to patient needs by making local health services a matter for local decision making.
- Making sure that services are effective.
- Reducing inequalities in health care.
- Providing better information to people and their GP's so that they may make well-informed choices.
- Improving efficiency within and between organisation, so that resources are put into patient care.

Putting Patients First is committed to enhance the role of primary care via Local Health Groups, and partnership between local people, health care professionals, local authorities and voluntary agencies to respond to local needs.

DRAFT
DENBIGHSHIRE CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN 2002 - 2007

The NHS and Unitary Authorities in North Wales face a number of enduring challenges:

- Rising demand and expectations from patients and clients, which require enhancement of the patient focus, while using resources effectively.
- The impact of medical technology (e.g. Keyhole and transplant surgery, telemedicine, genetic engineering in drug production, and development of new drugs for which there could be a high and costly demand).
- By 2015, 8.8% of the population will be over 75, 14% higher than is expected in England, with significant implications for the NHS, local government and voluntary agencies.
- Implementation of best practice. Identifying good practice and spreading success across organisations where performance varies will be a priority.
- Accurate mapping of the resources and services managed by the public sector.
- Overcoming structural and geographical boundaries to facilitate joint working - across hospital wards, directorates, between secondary and primary care, between organisations.

This document aims to guide all health decision-makers towards new ways of addressing:

- The underlying determinants or causes of health and ill health, including:
 - poverty
 - independence
 - learning skills required for a happy life.
- Factors promoting effective and efficient work e.g:
 - collaborative training schemes
 - flexible workforce
 - greater understanding between organisations
- Structural constraints, e.g:
 - disparate aims and objectives
 - incompatible legislation, professional philosophies or management structures
- Resource allocation and management.

Statement of Local Commitment

This Pathfinder HIP has been prepared in partnership. North Wales Health Authority, in leading the process, is extremely grateful to the following organisations for their considerable contributions:-

- NHS Trusts: North East Wales, Conwy & Denbighshire, North West Wales.
- Unitary Authorities: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham.
- Community Health Councils: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham.
- Local Health Groups: Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham.

This partnership approach is essential in implementing and developing further the North Wales HIP.

APPENDIX 8

YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN CONWY-DENBIGHSHIRE YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM EXTRACT FROM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PARTNERSHIPS IN CONWY-DENBIGHSHIRE

- The Plan describes the existing partnerships and the nature of their relationships with the Youth Offending Team. In terms of developments Youth Justice Board Funding has facilitated the development of accommodation worker posts in partnership with NACRO Housing, a volunteer co-ordinator post in partnership with other criminal justice agencies including the Probation Service and the North Wales Police and an increase in sessional support linked to reparation in partnership with NCH and the Children and Youth Partnership (Denbighshire). In addition discussions are ongoing in relation to developing the team's partnership with the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme with regard to leisure activities.
- Partnership with the Young Persons Substance Misuse Service has resulted in the Youth Offending Team drug worker post being located within that service and all three workers being located within the Youth Offending Team office, thus facilitating access and communication.
- Similarly, the accommodation workers (employed by NACRO) will be based within the Youth Offending Team office, again facilitating communication.
- Partnerships in relation to education, training and employment have developed significantly since the Education Worker started in the post and a 6 week pilot project targeting young people excluded from school and offending has now been completed. This involved the young people completing a programme of intervention designed by the Education Worker and staff of the Behavioural Support Unit - the programme was held within the Youth Offending Team office.
- In terms of health issues a Service Level Agreement has been endorsed by all effective links with the local CAMHS Team have been established. The Health Worker has developed an assessment tool for the team which addresses primary health needs and the information/data offered will form the basis for further discussions in terms of staffing needs.

**DRAFT
DENBIGHSHIRE CHILDREN'S SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN 2002 - 2007**

APPENDIX 9

**DRAFT EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2002-2005
(Extract, p. 60)**

Strategic Priority: 2: INCLUSIVE LEARNING

Actions to support: 2.5 LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

The LEA has been working with Social Services, Health and the Voluntary Sector in order to address the educational achievement of Looked After Children in the Authority. The initiative has been supported by Children First and is championed by the Education Liaison Officer. There has been intensive joint working with Social Services over the last two years to address the complex issues and raise awareness

Action	By Whom	By When	Funding	Criteria for Success	Cross reference
Ensure the requirements of Children First are implemented	Education Liaison Officer & Multi-Agency Steering Group	From January 2001 to August 2003	Children First C & Y P Fund GEST	Fifty percent of Looked After Children should achieve at least one GCSE or GNVQ by 2001 and seventy five percent by 2003	Children First The Education of Looked after Children Circular 3/99 Pupil support and Social Inclusion
To implement the guidance	As above	As above		Children leaving care should achieve no less than the average attainment of children from similar backgrounds in their area	
Schools and the LEA work effectively with SSD and others in meeting the educational needs of Looked After Children	Informal Education Team and Multi-Agency Steering Group				

PART TWO

DENBIGHSHIRE
PERSONAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

CHILDREN FIRST PROGRAMME

PROGRESS REPORT 2001 -2002

&

ACTION PLAN 2002 - 2003

CHILDREN FIRST PROGRAMME

PROGRESS REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In Denbighshire, the Children First grant for 2002-2003 is being used to fund the posts and projects listed below. Additional expenditure total in table below is Children First Grant, plus Children First base budget, plus Social Services budget funding.

Post/Project	Funding
Team Manager (Full Year)	£37,392
Training Officer	£31,620
NVQ Assessor	£30,939
2x Senior Practitioners (Part Year)	£41,638
Accommodation Support Worker	£10,000
Fostering	£200,000
Care Leavers	£35,700
4 x social work posts	£110,437
Children First Administration	£46,879
Supplies	£2,000
Other Projects Funded (see below)	£65,000
Total	611,605

1.2 Social Services continues to convene the multi agency Children's Strategic Planning Forum and this group is taking on responsibility for the development of the Children First programme in Denbighshire. A key issue in 2001 / 02 has been to promote greater partnership working in relation to Children First. In order to achieve this, the following actions have been taken:

- A Children First Planning Day was held and this was useful in reviewing progress in Denbighshire and considering the future direction of the Children First programme; and
- partner agencies were invited to submit projects for consideration for Children First funding.

1.3 Further work needs to be undertaken in 2002/03 to consolidate a partnership approach including greater shared ownership of target setting and data gathering and analysis. There needs to be closer working with key partners not represented Children's Strategic Planning Forum, e.g. the Youth Offending Team. A summary of the key themes emerging from an inter-agency Children First Planning Day is attached (**Annex 1**). This information has been used to:

- inform the Children First Action Plan for 2002/03
- inform the Children's Services Plan; and
- make decisions about the priority for funding new projects using both Children First grant and other sources of funding.

2. OTHER PROJECTS FUNDED

Additionally, during 2002/03, the Children First Development Fund will be investmented in the following areas:

2.1 Promoting the Healthy Development of Children in Need and Children Looked After (sub objectives 1.3 and 2.3)

A Public Health Practitioner for Looked After Children and Young People will be appointed by the Conwy and Denbighshire NHS Trust. This innovative post will positively impact on the health of all looked after children and young people placed in and outside of Denbighshire. The post holder will aim to:

A) Promote equality equity and accessibility in services required by looked after children and young people

B) Provide client interventions where appropriate when mainstream services are not being accessed

C) Develop socially inclusive, evidence based multi agency education and training packages

D) Improve and stream line inter agency communication

E) Provide accurate data in relation to identifying unmet health needs

F) Initiate and contribute to audit and research

G) Co ordinate the Trusts responsibility for maximising the health needs of LAC placed out of county

2.2 Personal Education Tuition for Looked After Children (Sub-objectives 1.1, 2.1 & 2.2)

The proposal for **funding for personal** educational tuition is based upon the key principle of ensuring that the educational achievement's and outcomes for LAC and individual children in need are maximised compatible with children first objectives

This proposals main objectives are:

To improve the educational outcomes for looked after children.

To improve the educational outcomes for individual children in need

And to ensure that these outcomes are maximised in line with the above children first objectives

2.3 Leaving Care Mentoring Project

In partnership with the Princes Trust in Wales it is proposed to organise and deliver a mentoring scheme for LAC leaving care. This is designed as an additional support package which will be available to 100% of children leaving care who require it when the programme is fully functional.

2.4 Care Co-ordination

Grant of £5,000 agreed.

2.5 Develop Glan y Mor / Drug Alcohol Issues

£11,824 allocated

2.6 Summary of other funded projects

Proposal	Funding 2002 / 03
Public Health Practitioner - Looked After Children	36,158 (June2002-March2003)
Personal Education Tuition for Looked After Children	5,000
Leaving Care Mentoring Project	7,000 June2002-March2003)
Care Co-ordination	5,000
Develop Glan y Mor / Drug Alcohol Issues	11,842
	Total = £65,000

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CARE LEAVERS

- The number of children leaving care who fall within the category of eligible children under the new arrangements is 24. Of those only 7 are thought likely to leave care during the 6 months 1 Oct 01-31 March 02
- The numbers of eligible and relevant **young people** who will reach age 18 and will thus become former relevant young people in that period is 2.
- A further 4 young people become eligible between 1 April 02 - 31 March 03
9 young people already known will become eligible between 1 April 03 -31 March 04
- Therefore 37 young people (min) will be known to the leaving care service by 31 March 04 either at the planning stage or having left care.

Numbers of children affected by the new arrangements for care leavers

“Eligible Children” Looked After children on/after 1/10/01 who aggregated 13 weeks of care (excluding respite) since age 14 between 1/10/01 - 31/3/02	26
“Relevant Children” Eligible children (see above) who left care 1/10/01 - 31/3/02 aged 16 or 17	7
“Former Relevant Young People” Eligible young people (as in “Eligible Children” above) who left care 1/10/01 - 31/3/02 aged 18	2

3.1 Outline of Proposals for Implementing the New Arrangements

- Denbighshire has appointed a full time personal advisor with plans to review this arrangement 1 Oct 02. Recruitment or commissioning of additional advisors will be actioned if this becomes necessary.
- Denbighshire has in partnership with the Princes Trust in Wales commissioned a mentoring service for children and young people leaving care as an additional resource
- The provision of suitable accommodation. Denbighshire has appointed an accommodation support worker to work closely with all children leaving care. The post holder will undertake a comprehensive assessment of their accommodation and support needs. Denbighshire in partnership with key housing agencies in the public and private sectors will continue to develop and commission a choice of suitable and affordable housing. There is also a plan to ensure that any unmet need is recorded and highlighted and reported to the Senior Management Team. Denbighshire has produced a Single Person Homeless Strategy launched on the 26 June 02. This contains an action plan for housing provision for care leavers. There is a recognised shortage of suitable affordable housing in rural South Denbighshire in particular for care leavers. Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd is evaluating the possibility of an increase in provision in this area.

3.2 Financial Support Arrangements

Denbighshire has produced in line with the statutory requirement a set of children and young people leaving care financial regulations. These are still in Draft Form and awaiting the approval of the Senior Management Team and Council. These regulations ensure that all young people leaving care have access to adequate financial help, and that there is clear guidance on the administration of this help and where it will be available from.

3.3 Estimated Cost

The estimated cost of the preparation and implementation in the first year, 1 April 2001 to 31 March 02, is £ 36,058 (see table below).

	£
Leaving Care payments to young people	8,255
Leaving Care staff costs	27,803
Total	36,058

Children's Services Expenditure Financial Summary

Total Children's Services expenditure 1999-2000	2,493,274
Total Children's Services expenditure 2000-2001	2,706,852
Total Children's Services budget 2001-2002	3,704,097
Forecast Children's Services budget 2002-3 (including Children First Development Fund Allocation)	4,280,060

ANNEX 1

KEY THEMES

From an inter-agency Children's First Planning Day, held in February 2002

Children with a Disability or Health Need

- Access to play and leisure outside school hours.
- Affordable out of school support.
- Support for parents in employment.
- Integrated play schemes.

Looked After Children

- Innovative health input.
- Promoting ownership / personal responsibility for health.
- Promoting a "level playing field" for young people in relation to health and education.
- Prevention strategies.
- Develop kinship fostering.

Children in Need of Protection

- Promote effective joint working.
- Address issues arising from the Inspection Report.
- Improve administration.
- Develop consultation.
- Improve management performance.

Children Leaving Care

- Improve public relations / community attitudes.
- Consolidate good practice.
- Support and resources for front line staff.

Children in Need

- Map needs and services.
- Improve co-ordination of services.
- Promote links with Drug and Alcohol services.
- Family Support Strategy.
- Better understanding and partnership working regarding neglect.

KEY THEMES
From Consultation Day for Families with Children with Disabilities
Held in July 2002

1. Education - eg, local provision for children with special needs.
2. Summer play schemes and recreation facilities: increased availability and access.
3. Respite care and project workers: increased and faster availability.
4. Disability register. Make it more useful to families with disabled children.
5. Reduction of waiting time for services.
6. More diversity and choice of services.
7. More welfare rights support and information.

Children First Progress Report and Action Plan 2002-2003

1: To ensure that children in need gain maximum life chance benefits from education opportunities, health care and social care

1.1 To promote the performance of individual children in need at key SATs and GCSE

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>“Local authorities should regard the educational attainment of the children they work with as both an indicator in its own right and as an indicator of children’s social well being.”</p> <p>Levels achieved in SATs and GCSE by children in need.</p>	<p>Not Set</p> <p>2000 figures % 15 yr olds achieving at least 5 GCSE grades A*-G: 91%</p> <p>%17yr olds achieving at least 2 A levels A-E grade or AS equivalent: 92%</p>	<p>Not measurable</p> <p>2001 figures % 15 yr olds achieving at least 5 GCSE grades A*-G: 85%</p> <p>% 17 yr olds achieving at least 2 A levels A-E grade or AS equivalent: 93%</p>	<p>Education represented on the inter-agency implementation group for the Assessment Framework for Children in Need, and Education staff included in training programme.</p> <p>Children & Youth Partnership funding agreed for Denbighshire Social Inclusion Unit, providing a range of educational support for children in need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Framework Implementation Plan (Part 2), which includes Education staff in a follow-up inter-agency training programme and as members of a Practitioners Group, to be produced. (<i>Childrens Services Plan, objective 3.3</i>). • Social Services planning officer to be member of Social Inclusion Management Group, in order to monitor and promote education benefits for children in need in Children & Youth Partnership (CYP) grant programme. • Director of Personal Services to be a member of Framework Partnership, to ensure that the priorities of Social Services are aligned with those of Education (Lifelong Learning) in the development of a Children and Young People’s Framework for Denbighshire. 	<p>Local Targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment Framework Implementation Plan (Part 2) agreed by SMT by March 2003. • Achievement of targets in CYP Grant Programme • Draft strategy for Children & Young People’s Framework to be discussed at Framework Partnership by August 2002.

Children First Progress Report and Action Plan 2002-2003

1: To ensure that children in need gain maximum life chance benefits from education opportunities, health care and social care

1.2 To reduce the rate of offending by children in need

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Number of cautions/final warnings and court disposals.	<p>Not set</p> <p>2000-01 Total population figures ages 10-18 Arrests: 849</p> <p>Instant cautions: 32</p> <p>Final warning: 62</p> <p>YOT data (2 counties) Children in need offending: 577</p>	<p>2001-02 Total population figures ages 10-18 Arrests: 912</p> <p>Instant cautions: 59</p> <p>Final warning: 80</p> <p>YOT data (2 counties) Children in need offending: 648</p>	<p>Numbers of young offenders supported by YOT increased from 44% to 67% (<i>Youth Justice Plan, p.5</i>).</p> <p>Development of Juvenile Nuisance Project: assessment and preventative intervention via multi-agency team.</p> <p>Inter-agency cooperation in SPLASH project, providing activities in school holidays in Rhyl.</p> <p>Reparation project funded by Youth Justice Board and YOT, managed by NCH Action for Children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inform and help implement Denbighshire's Crime & Disorder Strategy, via SSD membership on the YOT Steering Group. • To help achieve the Youth Justice Plan through the work of 3 Social Workers and contributions to the pooled budget of YOT. • Joint SSD/YOT pilot project targeting areas of high juvenile nuisance in Denbigh town. • Social Services to identify and refer children in need to SPLASH activities. 	<p>Local Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce juvenile anti-social behaviour by 10% (<i>Crime & Disorder Strategy target</i>) • To achieve a 25% rate of re-offending related to final warnings (<i>Youth Justice Plan target, against 28% rate in 2001-02</i>). • Initial report on Denbigh project to joint SSD/YOT meeting by September 2002. • Independent evaluation of SPLASH commissioned by September 2002.

Children First Progress Report and Action Plan 2002-2003

1: To ensure that children in need gain maximum life chance benefits from education opportunities, health care and social care

1.3 To promote the healthy development of individual children in need

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>a) Completion of regular dental checks, registration with a GP, take up of immunisations, non use of cigarettes, alcohol and drugs.</p> <p>b) Pregnancies of girls aged less than 16.</p>	<p>Not Set</p> <p>2000-01 figures Under 16 pregnancies known to Education Department: 6 (16 and over: 4)</p> <p>YOT figures for 2000-01 (2 counties) Drug offences: 36</p>	<p>a) See North Wales Health Authority Annual Report 2001-02</p> <p>2001-02 figures Under 16 pregnancies known to Education Department: 3 (16 and over: 2)</p> <p>YOT figures for 2001-02 (2 counties) Drug offences: 39</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHS Trust represented on the inter-agency implementation group for the Assessment Framework for Children in Need, and Health staff included in training programme. Appointment by NHS Trust of Nurse Consultant in Child Health, who has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) begun pilot project using the draft WAG 'Health Communities Planning Framework' tool; b) established sexual health and relationship education and advice to vulnerable young people at Llandrillo College. c) canvassed service users views to inform future service design and delivery. Primary mental health nurse for tier 1 services funded by CYP and appointed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Framework Implementation Plan (Part 2), which includes Health staff in a follow-up inter-agency training programme and as members of a Practitioners Group, to be produced. <u>CYP Youth & Community Workers</u> to target health, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy issues via their action plan. <u>CYP West Rhyl Young People's Project</u>: Assessment, planning and support via drop-in service. <u>CYP Young People's Healthy Sexuality Facilitator</u>: Sexuality and sexual health advice services. Healthy Communities Planning Framework (HCPF) inter-agency action plan to improve health & well-being of children & young people in West Rhyl.. Revised service level agreement (SLA) and additional funding for Glan y Mor Family Centre to target substance abuse. 	<p>Local Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment Framework Implementation Plan (Part 2) agreed by SMT by March 2003. Achievement of targets in CYP Grant Programme Achievement of HCPF targets. SLA for Glan y Mor renegotiated by July 2002.

Children First Progress Report and Action Plan 2002-2003

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rhuddlan Children's Centre was commended to the Social Policy Research Unit by service users and included in The Sharing Value Directory.• Appointment of Joint Flexibilities Project Manager to co-ordinate Health/Local Authority co-operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioning of Nuffield Institute report on potential use of Flexibilities for developing children's services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nuffield report on Joint Flexibilities by July 2002.
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Children First Progress Report and Action Plan 2002-2003

2: To ensure that children looked after gain maximum life chance benefits from education opportunities, health care and social care

2.1 To promote inclusion in the school agenda

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>The proportion of children looked after at 31/3/02 who have been continuously looked after for more than 12 month who have:</p> <p>a) been permanently excluded from school;</p> <p>b) had a fixed term exclusion during the year.</p>	<p>Local Targets</p> <p>a) No looked after children (LAC) to be permanently excluded;</p> <p>b) 50% reduction in fixed term exclusions.</p>	<p>a) No looked after children permanently excluded</p> <p>b) 4 children (6% of LAC) had fixed term exclusions. 11 percentile point decrease from previous year's exclusions (2000-2001 =17%).</p>	<p>Inter-agency conference and seminar series on education of looked after children commissioned from National Teaching & Advisory Service.</p> <p>Funding extension obtained for Education Liaison officer, who provides direct intervention when a LAC is at risk of exclusion.</p> <p>Funding agreed for separate Reviewing Officer post, to ensure inter-agency co-operation when a LAC is at risk of exclusion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production & implementation of Joint Protocol on the Education of LAC, to include processes for early identification and co-operation regarding risk of exclusion. • Appointment of Reviewing Officer for LAC. • Education Liaison Officer to work individually with children at risk of exclusion, and developmentally with the Reviewing Officer to implement and monitor the Joint Protocol. 	<p>Local Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint education protocol to be agreed by Elected Members by March 2003. • Reviewing Officer appointed by September 2002.

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2: To ensure that children looked after gain maximum life chance benefits from education opportunities, health care and social care

2.2 To promote the performance of individual children looked after at at key SATs, GCSE and GNVQ

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>“The percentage of young people leaving care aged 16 or over with at least one GCSE grade A to G or GNVQ.”</p> <p>“Percentage/number of children and young people looked after with a PEP within 20 school days of entering care or joining a new school.”</p> <p>“Percentage/number of children and young people looked after who at each statutory review are achieving the educational objectives set out within their PEP.”</p>	<p>National Targets: “At least 50% of children leaving care aged 16 or over to have 2 or more GCSE/ GNVQ by 2002.”</p> <p>2000/2001 LAC figures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 children achieved at least 1 GCSE • 5 children achieved Certificate of Education Awards 	<p>An audit of case files carried out in May 2002 found that PEPs were not routinely included in files of Looked After Children.</p> <p>2001-2 LAC figures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 children achieved at least 1 GCSE • 4 children achieved Certificate of Education Awards • Total: 10 children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-agency conference by National Teaching & Advisory Service stimulated joint work on Education Protocol. • Funding extension obtained for Education Liaison officer, to develop links between SSD childcare teams and schools. • Funding agreed for separate Reviewing Officer post, to facilitate integrated education planning/care planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme of personal education tuition for LAC. Local Target: Project plan for £5,000 personal educational tuition to be agreed by September 2002. • Production & implementation of Joint Protocol on the Education of LAC, (including production of PEPs) to raise inter-agency awareness and co-operation. Local Target: Joint education protocol to be agreed by Elected Members by March 2003. • New Performance Management and Quality Assurance Unit to monitor SSD case recording in regards to Joint Education Protocol (including PEPs). Local Target: 12 month QA programme to follow baseline audit in September 2002. 	<p>National Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “At least 75% of children leaving care aged 16 or over to have 2 or more GCSE/ GNVQ by 2003.” • “ All children and young people looked after to have a Personal Education Plan within 20 school days of entering care or joining a new school.” • “All children and young people looked after to have a PEP which includes specific, realistic and measurable individual educational objectives, which are monitored, reviewed and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 child achieved 2 A levels.• Total: 12 children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Of the 13 eligible children, 77% achieved targets.		<p>evaluated at statutory reviews.”</p> <p>Local Target: At least 86% of young people leaving care aged 16 or over will have at least 1 GCSE (A-G) or GNVQ</p>
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2: To ensure that children looked after gain maximum life chance benefits from education opportunities, health care and social care

2.3 To promote the healthy development of individual children looked after

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
“The percentage of looked after children with recent health checks.”	National Target “100% of children looked after to have appropriate health checks.”	NHS Trust audit delayed. Results expected August 2002.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding agreed by NHS Trust for Senior Mental Health Practitioner for LAC. • Team leader for school nursing with special responsibility for Looked After Children appointed by NHS Trust. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of Senior Mental Health Practitioner for LAC; to be member of LAC Development Group. • Children First funding used to appoint Public Health Practitioner to work with LAC and their carers. • New Performance Management and Quality Assurance Unit to monitor SSD case recording in regards to Health checks. 	Local Targets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Mental Health Practitioner appointed May 2002. • Public Health Practitioner appointed by July 2002. • 12 month QA programme to develop standards and incremental targets following baseline audit in September 2002.

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2: To ensure that children looked after gain maximum life chance benefits from education opportunities, health care and social care

2.4 To reduce the rate of offending by children looked after

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>“The relative rate of offending by looked after children.”</p>	<p>National Target “To reduce by 10% the relative rate of offending by children looked after in each local authority area.”</p> <p>2000-01 YOT data (2 counties) Number of children looked after offending, using “Quality Protects” counting rules: 18</p>	<p>2001-02 YOT data (2 counties) Number of children looked after offending, using “Quality Protects” counting rules: 27</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report produced by the Dartington Institute (“Matching Needs and Services”) on aligning services appropriate to the needs of looked after children. • YOT social worker roles identified for pre/post secure accommodation; court representation; and court orders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matching Needs and Services working group to inform revised comprehensive placement strategy. • Accommodation Officer to be appointed by YOT with responsibility for promotion of stable bail placements and prevention of re-offending by LAC. • Inter-agency training programme on the management of young offenders to be produced by YOT. 	<p>Local Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Placement Strategy by July 2003. • YOT Accommodation Officer in post by July 2002. • YOT training targets as in Youth Justice Plan.

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2: To ensure that children looked after gain maximum life chance benefits from education opportunities, health care and social care

2.5 To ensure that each child's educational needs are effectively assessed at the point at which they become looked after and are recorded in care plans.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Number of current educational assessments combined with the development of appropriate educational plans carried out by the LEA on becoming looked after.	None specified	An audit of case files carried out in May 2002 found that educational assessments and plans were not routinely included in files of Looked After Children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Liaison Officer tasked with developing a Joint Protocol for the Education of Looked After Children. • Funding for full time post of Reviewing Officer agreed. • 2 SSD Planning Officers appointed with responsibility for children's services. • Education represented on the inter-agency implementation group for the Assessment Framework for Children in Need, and Education staff included in training programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production & implementation of Joint Protocol on the Education of LAC, including guidance on production of educational assessments and plans. • Education Liaison Officer to join Looked After Children Development Group, and tasked with implementing and monitoring Joint Protocol for the Education of Looked After Children. • New Performance Management and Quality Assurance Unit to monitor SSD case recording in regards to Joint Education Protocol (including educational assessments and plans). 	<p>Local Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint education protocol to be agreed by Elected Members by March 2003 • Education Liaison Officer to update Looked After Children Development Group, August 2002. • 12 month QA programme to develop standards and incremental targets following baseline audit in September 2002

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3. To ensure that children are protected from emotional, physical, sexual abuse

3.1 To reduce the incidence of repeated significant harm

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/ 2003
Number of cases involving the same child suffering significant harm on more than one occasion	Not set 2000-2001 figures Out of 54 children on the At-Risk Register, by March 2001 8 had been re-registered.	2001-2 figures Out of 53 children on the At-Risk Register by March 2002 11 had been re registered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families has commenced, including the delivery of a multi-agency training programme. Identification of Funding for a new senior practitioner post for the Intake and Assessment Team (North) has been actioned. • Training plan in place and begun to implement the All Wales Child Protection Procedures. • An additional training and staff development officer has been appointed. • Funding of a new Reviewing Officer Post has been identified, freeing more time for the Child Protection Co-ordinator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of Family Support Strategy for identification and early intervention regarding risk • Production and implementation of Child Protection Inspection Action Plan. • Denbighshire Domestic Violence Forum to arrange a conference linking Domestic Violence and child abuse. 	<p>Local Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Support Strategy approved by SMT by March 2002. • First quarterly report on Child Protection Inspection Action Plan to SMT by September 2002. • Domestic Violence Conference 26 Sept 2002.

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3. To ensure that children are protected from emotional, physical, sexual abuse

3.2 To minimise the incidence of looked after children suffering significant harm

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Number of cases involving the same child suffering significant harm on more than one occasion	Not set 2000-2001 figures Out of 54 total children on the At-Risk Register, by March 2001, 2 Looked After Children had been re-registered.	2000-2001 figures Out of 54 total children on the At-Risk Register, by March 2002, 1 Looked After Child had been re-registered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Services Anti Bullying policy has been finalised and approved in consultation with looked after children. • Funding agreements for posts of Public Health Practitioner for Looked After Children and the Reviewing Officer should further strengthen child protection services to looked after children. • The North Wales Health Authority has produced a Sexual Health Strategy that has six objectives. These priorities are applicable to looked after children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of new Care and Control Policy for looked after children. • Improved children's rights service for looked after children. • Improved Independent Visitor scheme for looked after children. • Social Services re-organisation to include re-defined complaints officer post, and creation of Performance Management and Quality Assurance Unit to monitor social work practice. 	<p>Local Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care & Control Policy approved by Cabinet June 2002. • Agreement on improved children's rights provision by March 2003. • New Independent Visitor scheme in place by October 2002. • First appointments under re-organisation by October 2002.

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3. To ensure that children are protected from emotional, physical, sexual abuse

3.3 To ensure that all children who fall within the provisions of Part III of the Children Act 1989 have access to complaints procedures. Which ensure that effective mechanisms are in place to handle complaints.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Complaints procedures drawn up in consultation with children looked after, and which involve open access by children to persons other than those directly responsible for their care	Not Set	<p>All children who can understand are told of the complaints procedure</p> <p>All children over 10 who have been in care for more than 4 months have been given copies of the Looked after Guide containing details of the Representation and Complaints procedure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new information leaflet is being prepared to be given to all children (and carers) when coming into care, and to those already in care. • Advocacy/rights service provided by Children's Society (Children's Rights service). • Funding has been identified for the new posts of Reviewing Officer and Public Health Practitioner for Looked After Children. Appointments due July and August 2002. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New information leaflets for looked after children to be produced and distributed to all looked after children. • To provide Independent Visitors for children looked after, who need them. 	<p>Local Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information leaflet to be produced by September 2002. • New Independent Visitor Scheme in place by October 2002

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4. To ensure that children are securely attached to carers capable of providing safe and effective care

4.1 To reduce the number of changes of main carer for children looked after

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
NAWPI 3.1 - Stability of placements of children looked after by the authority by reference to the % of children looked after on 31 March in any year with 3 or more placements during the year.	<p>National target “No more than 10% of children looked after should have 3 or more placements by 2002”</p> <p>1999-2000 figures 11.63%</p> <p>2000-2001 figures 20.7%</p>	7.69% (Target achieved)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A dedicated team manager post has been created to manage the family placement service. • A full time NVQ Assessor for foster carers has been appointed. The Assessor is working with 12 candidates undertaking NVQ Level 3, “Children and Young People”. One candidate has completed the NVQ. • Dartington International was commissioned to undertake a development exercise, Matching Needs and Services: Children Looked After for More than Three Months. A Task group has been set up, chaired by the Director of Social Services, to respond to the report’s findings. • A recruitment campaign is producing community interest in fostering. • An independent review of the Foster Plus Scheme has been commissioned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Slow down the rate of increase in the numbers of children looked after by adopting a series of preventative measures: development of parenting programmes in partnership with NCH; research and cost Rapid Response Team. ♦ Commence second intake of foster carers onto the NVQ programme. ♦ Produce revised comprehensive Placement Strategy by July 2003 including, measures to support foster carers better, application of findings from research work and targets for foster carer recruitment. 	<p>National Target - no more than 10%</p> <p>Local target -12% (target has been set against backdrop of increasing numbers of children being admitted into the looked after system and increasing numbers of foster carers moving to provide services via the independent sector. Both factors are likely to have an adverse impact on stability of placements. Recording mechanisms for this indicator are becoming more robust).</p>

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4. To ensure that children are securely attached to carers capable of providing safe and effective care

4.2 To maximise the contribution adoption can make to providing permanent families for children in appropriate cases.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
The number of children adopted from local authority care during the year as a percentage of the number of children looked after at March 31 at the end of the year.	6% of looked after children	7.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The target set of 6% has been exceeded. • The number of children identified earlier for adoption has increased. • All children in care for more than 6 months will now be considered for adoption (new policy initiative). • Implementation of Achieving the Right Balance has been accelerated • The time children wait to be adopted has been reduced • Funding has been identified for the posts of Reviewing Officer and Public Health Practitioner (Looked After Children). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full consideration to be given to adoption during statutory reviews. This will be actioned by the new reviewing officer. • Rolling programme of case file audits to monitor evidence of consideration of adoption at statutory reviews. • Prepare for the implementation of the Adoption and Children Bill, including action plan to respond to increased need for post adoption support. • Work towards Comprehensive Placement Strategy (to be completed by July 2003) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption to be considered as an option at all statutory reviews for children after 6 months in care. • Initial base line audit completed September 2002.

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4. To ensure that children are securely attached to carers capable of providing safe and effective care

4.3 To reduce the number of children in need who become looked after on an unplanned basis

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
NAWPI 3.4 Percentage of first placements which begin with a clear care plan in place.	National Target 100% of LAC to have a care plan or after care plan which is reviewed as required by legislation. Local Target 95%	18%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Framework for Assessment of Children in Need is ensuring that the needs of children and their families are accurately assessed. • A programme of file audits has been initiated to monitor and report on any identifiable weaknesses in care planning arrangements. • Funding has been identified for the posts of Reviewing Officer and Public Health Practitioner (Looked After Children). • A dedicated team manager post has been created to manage the family placement service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice improvement/ quality assurance programme to be initiated, with progressive quality targets within 12 months. • New Procedures manual to clarify responsibilities under “Looking After Children” protocols and Framework for Assessment. 	National target 100% Local target 95% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial base line audit completed September 2002. • New Procedures manual by February 2003.

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4. To ensure that children are securely attached to carers capable of providing safe and effective care

4.4 To improve placement stability for children who receive a series of planned short term care arrangements.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Percentage of looked after children in a series of planned short term (respite) care placements with more than one carer.	No target set	No children had more than one carer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Manager for Children with Disability has been appointed. • The stability of placements for this group of children is not problematic. However, there may be insufficient choice of placement, particularly for children with complex needs. • Funding a post of Reviewing Officer. This post holder will have an important role in ensuring that the outcomes for this group of children are substantially improved. • A respite facility is being developed at Ysgol Plas Brondyffryn which will increase the range of placements available. • The Carers Special Grant has increased the range of breaks available for children with disabilities and their families (see Carers Special Grant Monitoring Report). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for Placement Strategy (to be finalised July 2003) designed to extend the range of options available to families for planned short term care. 	<p>Local Target 0% of children to have more than one carer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to Foster Plus scheme in place by March 2003.

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4. To ensure that children are securely attached to carers capable of providing safe and effective care

4.5 To improve case assessment and care planning

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>1. Percentage of cases subject to peer review of case history and decisions</p> <p>(or)</p> <p>2. Percentage of cases where care plans have been scrutinised and discussed in formal supervision between line manager and social worker</p>	<p>Local Target 100% of cases children with disabilities</p>	<p>No information available at this time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear Supervision policy in place. • Increased Team Manager capacity is improving supervision arrangements. • Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families has been implemented, including staff training. • A programme of file audits has been initiated to monitor and report on any identifiable weaknesses in care planning arrangements. • Funding has been identified for the post of Reviewing Officer . • Work is progressing to introduce the new client information system - Care. Com 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the client information system, Care.com, accompanied by training programme and hardware provision plans. • Creation of Performance Management & Quality Assurance Unit to raise standards of practice and recording via rolling audit programme. 	<p>Local Targets</p> <p>75% of all cases to be discussed in supervision</p> <p>100% of children on the child protection register to have their cases discussed in supervision</p> <p>100% of children looked after to have their cases discussed in supervision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care .Com on line by Dec 2002 • First appointments to Performance Management Unit by October 2002

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4. To ensure that children are securely attached to carers capable of providing safe and effective care

4.6 To ensure authorities carry out statutory reviews in accordance with regulations and have carried out appropriate assessments to inform care plans.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
i) percentage of reviews carried out within statutory time limits ii) percentage of cases where children have been looked after for more than 6 months with a fully completed Looking After Children Assessment and Action record	Not Set	No information available until after September 2002.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding has been identified for the post of Reviewing Officer. • Full Framework for Assessment for Children in Need and LACs training programmes have been delivered. • Social Work Teams have been further strengthened to ensure that our statutory obligations to Looked After Children are being met • A Supervision policy is in place to ensure that cases are scrutinised and discussed at key milestones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate appointment of reviewing officer ensuring that all reviews are held within statutory timescales. • Practice improvement/ quality assurance programme to be initiated, with progressive quality targets within 12 months. 	Local target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing officer appointed September 2002. • Initial baseline audit to be completed Sept 2002.

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4. To ensure that children are securely attached to carers capable of providing safe and effective care

4.7 To maintain a pool of residential and foster carers sufficient to provide quality placements to meet local need.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
D) percentage of children recorded at review as being in a placement that meets with their needs ii) matching needs and services audit to be conducted annually iii) comprehensive placement strategy to annual review	No target set	No information available until September 2002.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An independent review of the Foster Plus Scheme has been commissioned. • Dartington International was commissioned to undertake a development exercise, Matching Needs and Services: Children Looked After for More than Three Months. A Task group has been set up, chaired by the Director of Social Services, to respond to the report's findings. • A full time NVQ Assessor for foster carers has been appointed. The Assessor is working with 12 candidates undertaking NVQ Level 3, "Children and Young People". One candidate has completed the NVQ. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce revised comprehensive Placement Strategy including, measures to support foster carers better, application of findings from research work and targets for foster carer recruitment. • Review and improve Foster Plus scheme. 	Local Target <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Placement Strategy in place by July 2003. • Improvements to Foster Plus scheme by March 2003.

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4. To ensure that children are securely attached to carers capable of providing safe and effective care

4.8 To ensure that foster carers have the necessary skills to meet the needs of the children in their care.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>i) Authorities have audited their services against the National Foster care standards and Code of Practice for Foster Carers</p> <p>ii) authorities have approved plans to fully implement the national foster care standards/ code of practice by March 2002/2003</p>	<p>Local Target 100% of foster carers to have a programme of professional development</p>	<p>12 foster registered for NVQ level 3, Children and Young People</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training programme has been arranged to fully implement National Foster Care Standards • An NVQ assessor has been appointed and has taken up post • 12 foster carers have been assessed this year • A further 12 foster carers have been selected for this year's training programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to provide training and NVQ assessment opportunities for foster carers. • Produce revised comprehensive Placement Strategy by July 2003 including, measures to support foster carers better, application of findings from research work and targets for foster carer recruitment. • Best Value Review action plan to be completed. 	<p>Local Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 foster carers to have completed NVQ level 3 in the 12 months to March 2003. • Placement Strategy in place by July 2003. • Best Value report completed by July 2002.

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5. To ensure that young people leaving care, as they enter adulthood, are not isolated and are able to participate socially and economically as citizens.

5.1 To maximise the number of young people leaving care on or after their sixteenth birthday who have ready access to primary health care at the age of 19.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Percentage of young people registered with a GP on leaving care	Local Target 100% of children leaving care to be registered	NHS Trust Audit delayed: due September 2002.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Children (Leaving Care) Act. • Pathway Plans have been completed containing health information. • Funding for a Public Health Practitioner for Looked After children has been identified. • Funding for a Reviewing Officer has been identified. • Service Level Agreement with the Princes Trust in Wales to provide a mentoring service to children leaving care is being negotiated. • Speak Out consultation sessions have been utilised to discuss health related matters with children leaving care. • Appointment of Youth Forum Workers. • Appointment of drug and alcohol workers dealing with young people (Community Drugs and Alcohol Team). • Drugs and Alcohol Helpline set up in YOT - information given to children leaving care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit programme of case recording to include pathway planning. • The Public Health Practitioner will have a fundamental role in ensuring that children's health needs are met and that any unmet needs are identified. • To ensure that all children leaving care receive a copy of Stepping Out Resource Directory which contains key health information. 	<p>Local Targets 100% of children looked after to be registered with a GP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of pathway plans to contain health information • Public Health Practitioner in post by July 2002. • 100% children leaving care to be given Resource Directory.

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5. To ensure that young people leaving care, as they enter adulthood, are not isolated and are able to participate socially and economically as citizens.

5.2 To maximise the number of young people leaving care on or after their sixteenth birthday who are still in touch with SSD, or a known and approved contact, at the age of 19.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Percentage of these young people with contact with a known and approved person at the age of 19	Not set	100% of children leaving care after introduction of the Leaving Care Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Children (Leaving Care) Act. • Service Level Agreement with the Princes Trust in Wales to provide a mentoring service to children leaving care is being negotiated. • Appointment of a Team Manager (50% Leaving Care Team) • Appointment of an Accommodation Advisor will ensure that we keep in touch with children leaving care regarding accommodation matters. • Youth workers in the YOT team and Community drugs and Alcohol Team will ensure that these children are receiving appropriate services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File audits to ensure Children (Leaving Care) Act is being implemented • To implement the Prince's Trust Mentoring scheme. • To ensure that all children leaving care receive a copy of <i>Stepping Out Resource Directory</i> which contains key contact information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of children to have a personal advisor appointed on leaving care • Mentoring scheme in place by November 2002 • 100% of children leaving care to be given a copy of the <i>Stepping Out Resource Directory</i>.

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5. To ensure that young people leaving care, as they enter adulthood, are not isolated and are able to participate socially and economically as citizens.

5.3 To minimise the number of young people leaving care on or after their sixteenth birthday, who are homeless at the age of 19.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Percentage of young people leaving care on or after their 16th birthday who are homeless at age 19.	0%	0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Accommodation Support Worker has been appointed and an Accommodation Task Group has been established. • Denbighshire has produced a Single Person's Homeless Strategy to be launched 26June2002 and this contains an action plan for housing provision for care leavers. • A range of suitable accommodation will be planned for and developed with key partner agencies. For example <i>Cymdeithas Tai Clwyd</i> is evaluating the possibility of an increase in provision in South Denbighshire • A young persons hostel in Rhyl Denbighshires Foyer scheme has been commissioned and opened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving Care Strategy to be produced with a view to developing, in partnership with other key agencies, a range of suitable and affordable accommodation for children leaving care through out the county, and to identify provision for children leaving care who come into the county on an emergency basis. 	<p>0% of children leaving care to be homeless on the 19 birthday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving Care Strategy to be agreed by SMT by March 2003

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5. To ensure that young people leaving care, as they enter adulthood, are not isolated and are able to participate socially and economically as citizens.

5.4 To maximise the number of young people leaving care on or after their sixteenth birthday, who are engaged in education, training or employment at the age of 19.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Percentage of those young people who were looked after on the 1 April in their 17th year (aged 16) who were engaged in education ,training or employment at the age of 19.	National Target The level of education training or employment amongst young people aged 19 in 2001-02 who were looked after in their 17th year to be at least 60% of the level amongst all young people of the same age living in the same local authority area.	Information not yet available .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Personal Advisor, an Accommodation Support Worker and a 50% Team Manager have been appointed. • The Children and Youth Partnership programme has funded Tai Hafan Rhyl Young Women’s Project which aims to provide good secure housing, support training and personal development services to vulnerable young women, including LAC leaving care. • Closer worker relationships with the Social Inclusion Unit have been established in the light of this requirement to deal with issues related to disaffected young people in education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Performance Management and QA Unit to audit pathway plans and support arrangements. • Princes Trust Mentoring Scheme to facilitate empowerment of young care leavers.could help facilitate this when it becomes. • To work in partnership with Tai Clwyd and the Children and Youth Partnership programme to provide a range of services to young women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of children leaving care should have pathway plans that are clear access to training, education and employment opportunities. • Mentoring Scheme operational in November 2002 • Achievement of relevant CYP targets.

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5. To ensure that young people leaving care, as they enter adulthood, are not isolated and are able to participate socially and economically as citizens.

5.5 To ensure that young people on their sixteenth birthday continue to receive effective support.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>The percentage of young people in care on their 16 th birthday who have a suitable plan for their continuing care</p> <p>NAWPI 3.3</p>	<p>Local Target 100%</p>	28.57%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The identification of funding for a full time reviewing officer • The implementation of the Leaving Care Act • Pathway plans prepared for all children leaving care has been achieved • All children leaving care since the introduction of the Leaving Care Act (7 in total) have been found suitable accommodation • Team Manager (Leaving Care) half time post has been appointed • Full time manager family placement team has been appointed • “Speak Out” consultation sessions have ensured that children have a voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All cases of looked after children aged 16+ to be audited to establish if these children have a suitable care plan /pathway plan in place. • Consultation programme to be arranged through Children's Rights Service and in the Speak Out sessions relating to leaving care. 	<p>Local Target 100% of LAC to have a pathway and care plan in place on leaving care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline audit September 2002. • Improved Children's Rights arrangements to be in place by March 2003

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6. To ensure that children with specific social needs arising out of disability or a health condition are living in families or other appropriate settings in the community where their assessed needs are adequately met and reviewed.

6.1 To maintain an accurate and up to date profile of the numbers and circumstances of children with special needs, and the services being provided for them.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
The existence of a comprehensive joint local authority/ health authority data base which identifies children with particular needs and the service response	Local Target 100% compliance	Disability Register in existence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint local authority and health public information leaflet has been produced to raise awareness of the Disability Register, to explain its purpose and to encourage families to register. • The Disability Register is used to proactively to communicate and consult with children with disabilities and their families, e.g., the register is used to disseminate the Disability Newsletter, Children's Rights information and notification of consultation meetings. • The implementation of the Framework for Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families is improving the quality of information on needs. • Multi- disciplinary transition group meets to review all cases of 14 year olds who have an educational statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the Disability Register gathers information on Deafblind children to comply with Section(7) Guidance on Social Care for Deafblind Adults and Children. • To agree with Health a means of up dating the Disability Register to reflect the service response and to have a system in place to update the Register on a regular basis. • Joint agency Disability Newsletter to be distributed to all families on the Register. • Disability Register to be explored as a mechanism for care co-ordination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Group for Child Disability to report to Children's Services Strategic Planning Forum by March 2003 with recommend- ations for improvements to the Register. • Newsletter to be distributed 3 times per year. • Care Co-ordination proposals to be discussed by Children's Services Strategic Planning Forum by September 2002.

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6. To ensure that children with specific social needs arising out of disability or a health condition are living in families or other appropriate settings in the community where their assessed needs are adequately met and reviewed.

6.2 To increase the number of disabled children in receipt of family support services - including short term breaks and domiciliary services - and the number of hours of service provided in order to enable disabled children and their families to lead as ordinary a life as possible.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
i) Percentage of disabled children in receipt of family support services including short term breaks and domiciliary services ii) Average number of hours of service provided per child in order to enable disabled children and their families to lead as ordinary a life as possible	No targets set.	i) From a survey of 84 children, 55 were receiving family support Services: i.e.65% ii) from the same survey it was found that each child received an average of 4.4 hours per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children First money has been used to create additional Team Manager capacity and this will strengthen the service’s ability to respond to requests for help from children with disabilities and their families. • Special Carers Grant has funded additional services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 11 new nursery placements - 1 after school club placement - 3 new respite care arrangements - 1 new project work arrangement Additional services include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 families x project work 3 families x additional nursery hours 3 families x foster care 3 families receiving holiday breaks Altogether, the grant has resulted in breaks services for 15 new families and additional services for 10 families • There has been some broadening of the pool and range of providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consult with children with disabilities and their families to clarify their priorities for the further development of services. • To improve the format for parent/carers assessments (as implementation of the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000) by integrating it into the Framework for the Assessment for children in Need. • To improve opportunities for Direct Payments for children with disabilities and their families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Say it Your Way” consultation day in July 2002. • Framework Implementation Plan (part 2) agreed by SMT by September 2002. • Official launch of Direct Payments scheme, with Penerels Trust as advisory service, June 2002.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Services can also be offered at times of great need, e.g., during the school holidays.• Additional funding has enabled progress in meeting a range of Children First objectives, particularly 4.4 & 7.5.• 29 children have further been assessed as needing respite care.16 are receiving services and 13 are on the waiting list due to limited availability of carers.	
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6. To ensure that children with specific social needs arising out of disability or a health condition are living in families or other appropriate settings in the community where their assessed needs are adequately met and reviewed.

6.3 To increase the number of disabled children who use inclusive play and leisure services, including holiday play schemes, after school clubs and pre school provision with appropriate support if necessary.

Strategic

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>Percentage of disabled children who use inclusive play and leisure facilities, including holiday play schemes, after school clubs and pre school provision with appropriate support if necessary.</p>	<p>No target set</p>	<p>Figures included in surbey results as in 6.2 (<i>above</i>). No separate data available at this time.</p>	<p>Carers Special Grant has been used to improve the range of these services (see 6.2 above). There have been regular consultation events with children and families to ensure service development is imformed by their needs. Discussions with Denbighshire Leisure services regarding the provision of a Leisure Passport for children with disabilities and their families has been initiated. Implementation of the Framework for Assessment is highlighting the need for these services and identifying unmet need.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop and promote uptake of the leisure Pathway Card for disabled children and their families. • To undertake a survey of the play and leisure needs of disbled children and young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Disability Development Group propose improvements to the Pathway Card by March 2003. • Leisure survey completed by March 2003.

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6. To ensure that children with specific social needs arising out of disability or a health condition are living in families or other appropriate settings in the community where their assessed needs are adequately met and reviewed.

6.4 To ensure that parents and disabled children are provided with information about services from the statutory and voluntary sectors on an inter agency basis.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Percentage of cases which are subject to audit and surveys which measure this information during the year 1 April to 31 March.	No target set.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of families with children on the disability register received a newsletter which invited views and comments. • 100% of families with children on the disability register invited to express views at a consultation forum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint agency Disability Newsletter has been produced and distributed to all children and families on the Disability Register (newsletter produced 3 x yearly). • The newsletter has been used by partner agencies, e.g., Barnardos, Childrens Rights, Education and Health to publicise developments in their services. • There have been regular consultation events with children and families to ensure service development is informed by their needs and to share information. • An Information Pack for Children with Disabilities and their Families is being developed. This work is being led by Barnardos in consultation with all the key partner agencies and with funding for production of the pack from the Special Carers Grant. This pack will be a comprehensive source of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To revise the Social Services Public Information Strategy. • Production and distribution of the Information Pack for Children with Disabilities and their Families by Barnardo's. • New Performance Management and Quality Assurance Unit to be created, responsible for monitoring provision of service user information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Information Strategy to be approved by Best Vale Review Group by July 2002. • Disabilities Information Pack to be distributed by October 2002. • First appointments to Performance Management and QA Unit by October 2002.

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		<p>on services, welfare benefits, leisure provision, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Services has developed a Public Information strategy incorporating a range of methods for the production and dissemination of information.	
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7. To ensure that referral and assessment processes discriminate between different types and levels of need to produce a timely and effective service response and actively involve users and carers in tailoring individual packages of care.

7.1 To carry out timely and appropriate initial assessments of children's needs and the parents ability to respond to them.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Percentage of all referrals for which an initial assessment has been completed i) within 7 working days ii) in 8 days or more	No targets set.	Data not available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and multi-agency training for implementation of the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families commenced. • 2 separate Intake and Assessment children's teams created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To produce an Assessment Framework Implementation Plan (Part 2) to improve and take forward the Assessment programme. • To undertake regular file audits to monitor implementation of and compliance with Assessment Framework. • To establish clear eligibility criteria for services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Framework Implementation Plan part 2 to be agreed by SMT by September 2002. • Initial base-line file audit completed September 2002. • Eligibility criteria approved by elected members by September 2002.

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7. To ensure that referral and assessment processes discriminate between different types and levels of need to produce a timely and effective service response and actively involve users and carers in tailoring individual packages of care.

7.2 To carry out timely and appropriate comprehensive assessments of children's needs, and the parents ability to respond to them.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Percentage of all core assessments completed i) within 35 working days ii) in 36 working days or more.	Not set	Data not available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As 7.1 above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As 7.1 above 	As 7.1 above

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7. To ensure that referral and assessment processes discriminate between different types and levels of need to produce a timely and effective service response and actively involve users and carers in tailoring individual packages of care.

7.3 To deal effectively with referrals on the first occasion.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Number of all instances of repeat referrals in respect of same child within 6 months as a percentage of total referrals	Local Target 10%	Data not available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As 7.1 above. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As 7.1 above. • To implement a Family Support Strategy based on recommendations in the Dartington Matching Needs and Services Report (by March 2003). • To appoint a Senior Practitioner to Intake and Assessment Team. • Staffing shortages to be resolved via a recruitment and retention strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As 7.1 above • Family Support Strategy approved by SMT by March 2003. • Appoint a senior practitioner July 2002. • Workforce Strategy to be approved by December 2002.

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7. To ensure that referral and assessment processes discriminate between different types and levels of need to produce a timely and effective service response and actively involve users and carers in tailoring individual packages of care.

7.4 To ensure that children on an SEN register have an annual review of their needs which may result in their removal from the register or their movement between stages.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Timely completion of reviews for children on SEN register who have an annual review of their needs.	None set	Annual reviews of all children with a statement of special educational need held by the LEA. Additionally, Transitional reviews are held and a plan drawn up when a child reaches the age of 14 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information regarding children on the SEN register is channelled through the Educational Liaison Officer. • LEA have invested in a new “<i>Foundation</i>” system to improve management information. 	Sharing of information regarding educational special needs, Social Services Child Disability Team and the Health-held disability register to be explored in terms of developing a Care Co-ordination register.	Report on Care Co-ordination proposals to the Children’s Strategic Planning group by September 2002.

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8. To ensure that resources are planned and provided at levels which represent best value for money, allow for choice and different responses for different needs and circumstances.

8.1 To demonstrate all agencies providing services for children and families do so in a way such that their planning and operational resources maximise the cost effectiveness of their total effort to promote the health and development of children.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
Guidance suggests that this objective is best measured through Joint Review. However, improving multi agency planning and the deployment of resources remains a key objective for Denbighshire	To commence review of multi-agency planning arrangements including links between Education and Personal Services.	Review commenced.	Consultant engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure coherent approach to the planning and delivery of services within the Council and with external partners. • Ensure consistency between Cymorth, Health & Well Being Strategies and Strategic Partnerships with Health. • This work will be completed by September 2002. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New planning arrangements in place.

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9. To actively involve users and carers in planning services

9.1 To demonstrate that views of children and families are actively sought and used in the planning, delivery and review of services.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>i) Children's Services Plans clearly specify consultation structures, mechanisms and processes for seeking the views of children and families</p> <p>ii) Local authorities carry out regular audits and surveys and from time to time commission research to determine the effectiveness of their consultative arrangements</p>	<p>Local Targets</p> <p>i) <u>Children's Services Plan 1999-2000</u> set up:</p> <p>a) SLA with Children's Rights Service to include consultation;</p> <p>b) Annual consultation forums for children with disabilities and their parents;</p> <p>c) Development Groups to include Vol. Orgs. representing</p>	<p>i) Consulting :</p> <p>a) Targets within Children's Rights Service SLA (2001/ 02) achieved.</p> <p>b) Children with disabilities consultation forum took place.</p> <p>c) Development Groups terms of reference met.</p> <p>ii) 5 surveys/ research studies produced (<i>see</i></p>	<p><u>i) From Children's Services Plan 1999-2000:</u></p> <p>a) Children's Rights Service provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worker to obtain views of children with disabilities and feed this into the Development Group. • 2 "Speak Out Days" for looked after children. • Individual consultation, advocacy and independent visitor service to looked after children. <p>b) Consultation Forum results reported back to families of children with disabilities via Newsletter, and to professionals via Development Group.</p> <p>c) Development Group created a task group including parents to explore Care Co-ordination.</p> <p><u>ii) Effectiveness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Commissioned surveys/research studies: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Matching Needs and Services (Dartington Institute) 2. Review of Foster Plus scheme 	<p>i) Children's Services Plan (2002-07) specifies production of comprehensive new Consultation Strategy under Objective 9.</p> <p>ii) Children's Services consultation strategy (see above) to be developed by new Performance Management and Quality Assurance Unit, which will be responsible for monitoring effectiveness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's Services Consultation Strategy to be approved by SMT by March 2003. • Performance Management and Quality Assurance Unit in place by March 2003

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	children and families. ii) <u>Effectiveness</u> 5 surveys/ research studies commissioned	<i>Progress column)</i>	3. Review of Family Centres 4. Supporting Families (published by W.O.R.D) 5. Evaluation of Children & Youth Partnership programme.		
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9. To actively involve users and carers in planning services

9.2 To demonstrate (a) that account is taken of the views of children and their families and (b) the satisfaction of users with the services provided is increasing.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>1) Methods used to establish the satisfaction of children and families with the services during the year 1 April to 31 March.</p> <p>2) Percentage of a) children and b) their families expressing satisfaction with i) personal service as delivered by staff ii) other services provided by the authority iii) referral to other services to meet their needs.</p>	<p>1) Not set</p> <p>2) 2000-01 Number of Complaints: 18 Number of complainants: 17</p>	<p>1) Use of "Respond" data base to use complaints/re presentations to inform service delivery.</p> <p>2) 2001-02 Number of complaints: 40 Number of complainants: 21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond 2 software upgraded to Respond 3. • Production of draft departmental consultation policy • Newsletter to families of children with disabilities reported back Consultation Forum results • Parents participated in a Care-ordination Planning sub group • Children's rights worker tasked to obtain views of children with disabilities and feed this into the Development Group • 2 "Speak Out Days" for looked after children • Young Carers consultation meetings • Public information leaflets developed which invite customer feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance management and Quality Assurance unit to be created, with independent Representation & Complaints function. • Independent consultant commissioned to make further recommendations on Foster Plus scheme, to include views of service users. • Consultation Forum for Disabled Children and families to take place. • Newsletter to be distributed to families of children with disabilities inviting feedback. • Plans for Children's Rights provision in place to replace current transitional arrangement. • Children's Services Consultation Strategy produced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First new posts within the unit to be appointed August 2002. • Foster Plus report commissioned by July 2002. • Disabled Children's Consultation Forum: July 2002. • Newsletter: quarterly. • Children's Rights provision agreed March 2003. • Consultation Strategy agreed by SMT by March 2003.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speak Out Days for looked after children to take place, each including preparation and follow up meetings with young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 speak out events before end March 2002.
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9. To actively involve users and carers in planning services

9.3 To ensure that all children looked after have access to an independent visitor when they need one.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>i) Percentage of all statutory reviews which include consideration of the need for an Independent Visitor.</p> <p>ii) Authorities have in place arrangements/ services to provide Independent Visitors for all children identified as needing one.</p>	Not set	<p>i) Consideration of the need for an Independent Visitor required in all statutory reviews.</p> <p>ii) Independent Visitor service for any eligible child provided via SLA with Children's Society.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding agreed for full-time Reviewing Officer post, able to explore individual need in greater depth. • Consultations taken place with 2 neighbouring local authorities regarding co-operative development of Independent Visitor service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved independent visitor scheme in place. • New SLA with children's rights provider (currently provider of Independent Visitor scheme) to be agreed before end March 2003 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent visitor scheme by October 2002. • Children's rights SLA agreed before end March 2003.

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10. ensure through regulatory powers and duties that children in regulated services are protected from harm and poor care standards.

10.1 To demonstrate that regulatory requirements are complied with.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>i.) Authorities arrangements for statutory visits to looked after children in residential care and foster care and monthly visits to childrens homes fully comply with regulations</p> <p>ii) authorities arrangements for Registration and Inspection of Regulated services fully comply with regulations</p>	Not Set	An audit of performance is currently being planned and will be tasked to Reviewing Officer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of funding for the post of reviewing officer. • An audit of current performance is being implemented • Strengthening of Looked After Children Team. Recruitment and retention difficulties have been experienced leading at times to delays in reviews • The appointment of a Team Manager Children with Disabilities Service should enhance this services ability to comply with their statutory duties • An new audit of services for children with disabilities is planned for this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a Reviewing Officer, and new staff at Social Worker level to the LAC team. Appoint parent support workers to LAC team to assist with statutory visits • Reviewing Officer top assist in drawing up audit of reviewing timescales for LAC . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff appointed by August 2002 • Baseline audit completed by September 2002.

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11. To ensure that social care workers and foster carers are appropriately skilled, trained and qualified, and to promote the uptake of training at all levels.

11.1 To ensure that child care workers and foster carers are adequately trained for the job.

Relevant Performance Indicator/s	Target 2001/02	Actual 2001/02	Progress 2001/02	Action Plan 2002/03	Target 2002/03
<p>i) percentage of eligible residential care staff meeting the TSP target</p> <p>ii) percentage of eligible Social Workers Children and Families meeting TSP targets</p> <p>iii) percentage of foster carers meeting TSP targets</p>	<p>Not set</p>	<p>i) County's residential child care service has been contracted out to NCH Cymru</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Residential Care Manager is DiPSW qualified • The Residential Care Co-Ordinator is both DiPSW + NVQ level III qualified • The Residential Care Deputy Manager is CSS which is CQSW equivalent • 3 Residential Care Assistants have completed an NVQ level III • Multi Disciplinary Training to compliment the introduction of the Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and Their Families has been completed... several hundred staff had access to the training • Training has also been organised and delivered to several hundred multi agency staff to address the implementation of the new all Wales Child Protection Procedures • A foster carer assessor has been appointed • 12 foster carers have completed an NVQ at level 3 	<p>To ensure that by September 2003 the remaining 5 Residential Care Assistants are NVQ level III qualified.</p> <p>The current percentage of Social Workers who are DiPSW qualified is 98%. By 2002 the National target will be 100%.</p> <p>12 more foster carers have been identified for NVQ level 3 this year</p>	<p>85% of child care workers should be NVQ level III qualified by September 2003.</p> <p>100% of Social Workers be qualified.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training on the new Fostering and Adoption Bill and Implementing Children First objectives emphasis on Health and Education have been delivered		
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REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR J A SMITH, LEAD MEMBER FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

DATE: 10 September 2002

SUBJECT: Training Policy for Prospective Foster Carers

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Approval is sought of the training policy for prospective foster carers, attached at Appendix 1

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The Denbighshire Fostering and Adoption Panel seeks to clarify its policy on the training requirements for prospective foster carers. Currently, the policy allows for approval of foster carers who have not completed training on the condition that such training will be carried out within 12 months of approval. Such a condition is difficult to enforce in practice, and as completion of training is considered to be good practice prior to approval of foster carers, an amended policy has been drafted for approval.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

Training was run once every six months. In order to ensure that all foster carers are given the opportunity to attend a training session within the period of assessment (approximately 4 months), it is necessary for the training sessions to be increased to take place every 3 months - ie. an additional 2 training sessions per year. Each training session covers 2 days. The increase is necessary to avoid any delay in bringing applications for the consideration of new foster carers to Panel. The cost of providing these two extra sessions is will be £640 per annum. (2 sessions of 2 days =4 days @ £80 per day)

These costs should be absorbed within the Personal Services Training Support Programme.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The minimal costs associated arising from the recommendation will be accommodated from within existing budgetary provisions and consequently do not impact on the Council's Corporate Objective to deliver balances of £1.0m by the end of the current financial year.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Consultation has been carried out with:

The Denbighshire Fostering and Adoption Panel - who suggested amendments to the document which have been incorporated, with the exception of a request from a panel member requesting the removal of the 'exceptional' clause, which was not agreed by the Authority

BAAF - who fully support the policy

Personal Services Scrutiny Committee - considered the policy on 31st July, 2002 and approved the recommendation that this report be presented to Cabinet for approval.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The revised Training Policy supports the aim of Personal Services to maintain a body of foster carers, approved to the required standards. There are budgetary implications, which have been agreed with the Personal Services Training Manager, and will be absorbed within the Personal Services Training Support Programme

7 RECOMMENDATION

That the Training Policy for Prospective Foster Carers be approved.

Training & approval of foster carers draft proposals

Why we need a policy

The current situation is that there is a lack of clarity regarding the training status of applicants when they come to panel. This lack of clarity has left us in a situation where the applicants and their assessing social workers are unclear as to how to proceed in situations where the assessment has been completed but formal group training has not. It is the intention of this policy to formulate a positive way to address this that starts from the principle that all applicants require formal group training but also looks at exceptions and identifies a policy that will resolve this situation.

The current training plan

At the moment initial training of foster carers is run as group training over a four session programme with each session lasting 3 hours. The topics are covered in four sessions

- 1 Hello, Form F's, why children are accommodated
- 2 Child Development-dealing with difficult behaviour
- 3 Caring for a sexually abused child and keeping safe
- 4 Working in partnership.

The sessions go into a lot of detail and enable applicants to take part in group discussions.. The process helps with self selection amongst the applicants in terms of the sort of fostering they are interested in and this greatly helps the assessment process. The group training also leads to a situation where carers can become mutually supportive and sometimes go on to support each other through their future fostering career.

In January 2002 we amalgamated the sessions into two full days on a Friday and a Monday. This format has already worked well with the adoption training and we plan to run this every 3 months. The training will be split into part one on the Fridays and part two on the Mondays.

The proposed policy

The principle of the policy is that all new carers will complete this formal group training before they come to panel. This means that with the training courses running every three months and most applications taking 4-6 months the opportunity to train will be offered to all applicants and there should be no delay in them coming to panel because of training availability.

In exceptional circumstances where an applicant is suitable but has either not attended all the formal group training or missed an element of it it is expected that the Social Worker's assessment report of the prospective carers presented to the panel will provide evidence as to how the training needs were covered. (For example a recognised qualification or one to one training with the reporting Social Worker.) Furthermore there will be an expectation that the formal group training will be completed within six months of the approval as this is considered to be best practice and is an invaluable tool in facilitating group support networks as well as being an opportunity to share good practice examples.

Mick Sams
Team Manager
Family Placement Team .

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor J A Smith, Lead Member for Social Inclusion

DATE: 10 September 2002

SUBJECT: Policy for the attendance of Applicants seeking approval as Adoptive Parents, at the Adoption and Fostering Panel

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Approval is sought of the enclosed Policy, which is a policy governing the attendance of applicants wishing to be approved as adopters, at the Denbighshire Adoption and Fostering Panel.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

It is now considered best practice for applicants who are seeking to be approved as adoptive parents to attend the Denbighshire Adoption and Fostering Panel. This best practice is considered in the context of the new National Adoption Standards, which states that "agencies should encourage and support applicants to attend the panel if they wish, and give them the opportunity to speak." It is also considered in light of recommendations made from a recent Part 8 enquiry into the death of a child in the Brighton area; and finally giving due consideration to the implications of the Human Rights Act 1998 which requires individuals to be given a right to a fair hearing when a Public Authority is making a decision that affects that individuals right to a family life.

Accordingly, Denbighshire Adoption and Fostering Panel has drafted the attached policy, together with the procedure outlined in the policy. This policy been drafted with full consultation with the British Adoption and Fostering Agency (BAAF), who have also provided training for Panel members in anticipation of applicants attending Panel meetings.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

No substantial cost implications

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The minimal costs associated arising from the recommendation will be accommodated from within existing budgetary provisions and consequently do not impact on the Council's Corporate Objective to deliver balances of £1.0m by the end of the current financial year.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The policy was developed during a policy development day facilitated by BAAF and was attended by all the members of the Adoption Panel. Both BAAf and the Panel have approved the final draft of the policy and procedure. Comments made by BAAF have been incorporated within the policy.

The Personal Services Scrutiny Committee considered the Policy on 31st July, 2002 and approved the recommendation that this report be presented to Cabinet for approval.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The new policy will bring the current practices of the Adoption and Fostering Panel in line with best practice as suggested particularly by the National Adoption Standards. It is a policy aimed at encouraging applicants to take an active role in the procedure which must be followed by the adoption agency in order to maintain a body of prospective adoptive parents, approved to the required standards. It is hoped that once the policy is implemented successfully in respect of applicants seeking approval as adopters, that the new procedures can be extended to applicants seeking to be approved as foster carers.

7 RECOMMENDATION

That the Policy for the attendance of Applicants seeking approval as Adoptive Parents, at Denbighshire's Adoption and Fostering Panel be approved.

DENBIGHSHIRE FOSTERING & ADOPTION PANEL**Policy for the attendance of Applicants seeking approval as Adoptive Parents at the Denbighshire Adoption and Fostering Panel****Background**

Denbighshire's Adoption and Fostering Panel consists of ten members, comprising of Social Workers, independent members with experience of adoption, an elected member and a medical advisor. The Panel considers, amongst other matters, applications from person(s) wishing to be approved as prospective adopters. The Panel will consider an application on a specified date, and will aim (if all the relevant information is to hand) to make a recommendation to the adoption agency as to whether the applicant(s) should or should not be approved as adopters.

To date these applications have been considered by Panel on the basis of a report prepared by the applicants assessing social worker, and a presentation by that social worker. In line with best practice guidelines, as from the date of Cabinet approval, Denbighshire Fostering & Adoption panel will be giving the opportunity to all new applicants who are seeking approval as adoptive parents to attend panel themselves when their application is being considered.

Attendance at Panel

It is important that applicants are aware that attendance at Panel is not compulsory, and non-attendance will not prejudice their application in any way shape or form. Neither attendance nor non-attendance will form part of the assessment process. It is an opportunity for applicants to meet the Panel members who will be making the recommendation to the adoption agency as to their approval, and likewise for the Panel members to meet the applicants in person. It is also an opportunity for applicants and Panel members alike to ask questions and clarify any issues which may arise from the application or the procedure.

Should applicants decide not to attend Panel, the Panel members will consider the application on the basis of the assessing social worker's report and presentation, as has been the process to date. Should applicants wish to add anything to the assessment report being presented, they will be invited to write to the Panel members via the Panel Administrator if they prefer not to attend. Again, if they choose not to add anything, their application will not be prejudiced in any way.

Should applicants decide that they would like to attend the Panel meeting considering their application, the procedure that will be followed at such a meeting is attached as Appendix 1.

Attendance at Panel, together with the procedure that will be followed at the meeting, and any general questions or queries, will be addressed within a specific session of the applicants' training. If any additional queries or questions arise, these can, of course, be discussed with the applicants' assessing social worker prior to attendance at the Panel meeting.

DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

APPLICANTS ATTENDING PANEL

Information is circulated



Chair goes out, greets family
and introduces him/herself



Social worker goes into panel
answers questions, clarifies issues



Social worker leaves,
Panel formulates questions for family



Chair goes out and
returns with applicants and social worker,
introductions are made



One or two 'warm up' questions are asked



Agreed questions - then any clarifying questions.
Ask applicants if they have any questions



Social worker leaves with applicant



Panel agrees recommendation



Chair informs applicant of recommendation*



The Panel's recommendation is discussed with the
Agency decision maker



The decision of the agency will be
communicated to the applicants in writing*

- In accordance with the National Adoption Standards

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: CLLR M A GERMAN, LEAD MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

DATE: 10 SEPTEMBER 2002

SUBJECT: REVISED SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTE 4 'OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS' - CONSULTATION DRAFT

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To seek approval of the attached SPG on Open Space Requirements in New Developments as a consultation draft which will be subject to a six week consultation period.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The Denbighshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP) is now adopted and existing SPG's will be updated and new SPG's prepared where necessary. The revised SPG 4 attached to this report will supplement policy REC 2 of the Denbighshire UDP, which will provide further guidance to members, officers and developers in the submission and assessment of development proposals in respect of the open space provision required. The revised SPG 4 contains the following key changes:

- The open space requirement now only applies to developments of 10 or more dwellings.
- The predicted occupancy levels of dwellings has been revised to better reflect the average household size in Wales.
- More detail is supplied as to the use of commuted sums and works that would be eligible to enhance and increase the capacity of existing open space.

2.2 The revised SPG must be subject to public consultation prior to a Council resolution to adopt it. Once adopted it can be taken into account as a material consideration in determining applications for planning permission.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional cost implications, management of the commuted sums will be handled internally.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLERS STATEMENT

There are no additional costs to the Council arising from the recommendations in this report and accordingly there is no adverse impact on the Council's Corporate Objective to deliver balances of £1.0m by the end of the current financial year.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 Once approved by Cabinet it will be subject to a six week public consultation period and will be made available as follows:

- Notifying all Members;
- Copies to be sent to all Town and Community Councils;
- Copies to be made available at all Council offices, libraries, one stop shops and on the Council's website;

- Notifying developers and agents who may have an involvement in submitting planning applications for housing development;
- Notifying all parties who made representations to policy REC 2 during the UDP preparation process.

5.2 All comments submitted during the six week consultation period will be made publicly available along with the Council's response.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Improve the quality of the environment and the quality of life for residents of Denbighshire.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 That the attached SPG be submitted to and approved by Cabinet as a consultation draft which will be subject to a six week public consultation period.

Denbighshire County Council
Planning Services

Supplementary Planning Guidance 4 (SPG4)
OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Consultation Draft
September 2002

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTE

RECREATIONAL PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Note is one of a series of Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes (SPGs), amplifying the development plan policies and other issues in a clear and concise format with the aim of improving the design and quality of new development. The Notes are intended to offer broad guidance which will assist members of the public and officers in discussions prior to the submission of planning applications and assist officers in handling and members in determining planning applications.

2 STATUS AND STAGES IN PREPARATION

- 2.1 The Council's SPG Notes are not part of the adopted plan. However, they have been the subject of both a formal Council resolution and public consultation. The Welsh Assembly Government (The Assembly), has confirmed that following public consultation and subsequent Local Planning Authority (LPAs) approval, SPG can be treated as a material planning consideration when LPAs, Planning Inspectors and the Assembly determine planning applications and appeals.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Public open space whether sports pitches or areas of urban greenspace are recognised as being important to the overall quality of life. It contributes to the general well-being of the community in respect of providing for sport and recreation and in contributing to biodiversity, the conservation of nature and landscape, air quality and the protection of groundwater.
- 3.2 Planning policy both local and national seeks to protect and enhance the quantitative and qualitative provision of open space to meet the needs of current and future generations. This can be achieved by safeguarding and enhancing current provision and creating additional provision where demand/need is identified.

4 POLICY

- 4.1 National and local planning policy is contained in Planning Policy Wales 2002, Technical Advice Note (W) 16 'Sport and Recreation', Welsh Office Circular 13/97 'Planning Obligations' and the Denbighshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP), adopted July 2002.
- 4.2 The Denbighshire UDP definition states '*open space includes formal and informal open space whether in public or private ownership. These areas include parks, playing fields (including those in educational use) urban green-space and allotments*'.
- 4.3 The UDP contains policies relating to the protection of existing open space and for the provision of open space in new developments. The most relevant policies are i) REC 1 Protection of Existing Open Space & ii) REC 2 Amenity & Recreational Open Space Requirements in New Developments.

-
- 4.4 Developers will be required to provide appropriate amenity areas and landscaping within new developments in addition to recreational open space. These areas should be designed positively as an integral part of the development, and not added as an after thought or made up of residual and inappropriate pieces of land.
- 4.5 Where residential developments of 10 or more units are proposed and a deficiency in open space provision has been identified, open space is expected to be provided in accordance with the County Standard. For developments where physical provision is not practicable then payment of commuted sums will be considered where these can be targeted to make agreed provision in the Community area.
- 4.6 The cumulative effect of even small scale residential developments (ie 10-30 units), creates a significant additional demand for recreational open space. Occupiers of new developments all have the need for and right to expect the provision of recreational facilities whether the development be large or small. New residential development could take the form of new build, subdivision of existing residential development, or a change to residential use as a result of conversion.

5 CURRENT PROVISION & NEEDS

- 5.1 A survey was conducted in 1999 of existing open space provision in the County to inform the preparation of the UDP. The results demonstrated a Countywide deficit in all aspects of open space provision totalling approx 32 hectares. Several settlements demonstrated severe shortages in open space provision, further audits are being carried out to assess the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing open space.
- 5.2 Denbighshire County Council promote a barrier-free environment and Access for All within the community, including disabled people under the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The needs of all sectors of the community should be considered in the provision of all types of recreational and amenity open space.

6. DEFINITIONS OF OPEN SPACE

- 6.1 The National Playing Field Association (NPFA) defines playing space as:- *“Space which is available for sport, active recreation or children’s play, which is of suitable size and nature for its intended purpose and safely accessible and available to the general public.”*

The NPFA also provides more detailed definitions of the two types of open space.

Outdoor Sport - defined by DCC as Community Recreational Open Space (CROS)

- Facilities such as pitches, greens, courts, athletics tracks and miscellaneous sites such as croquet lawns and training areas owned by local authorities.
- Facilities described above within the educational sector and which, as a matter of practice and policy are available for public use.
- Facilities described above which are within the voluntary, private, commercial sectors, and serve the needs for outdoor recreation of their members, or the public.

Children’s Playing Space

- Outdoor equipped playgrounds for children of whatever age.

¹ ‘The Six Acre Standard, Minimum Standards For Outdoor Playing Space’, National Playing Fields Association, 2001

- Other designated play facilities for children which offer specific opportunity for outdoor play, such as adventure playgrounds.
- Casual or informal playing space within housing areas.

7 COUNTY STANDARD

7.1 Following support from the UDP Inspector, Denbighshire has adopted the following **minimum** standard for open space of **3.2 ha per 1000 population** (32 square metres per person). This standard is further broken down into:

Community Recreational Open Space (CROS) (e.g. Football pitches, parks)	2.4 hectares/1000 population 24 m ² /person
Children's Open Space (e.g. Play grounds)	0.8 hectares/1000 population 8 m ² /person

7.2 CROS should include a minimum of 1.6 - 1.8 hectares per 1000 population, for formal sports facilities for example: pitches, courts and greens for public and private use, athletics facilities etc. This is in line with the National Playing Fields Association recommended minimum standard. The remaining 0.6 - 0.8 hectares per 1000 population can be made up of informal recreational space ie parks.

7.3 This adopted County minimum standard will be applied to new developments of 10 or more units where existing open space cannot meet the needs generated by the new development. Following the results of the 1999 survey this will apply to the majority of sites. In order that the open space requirement is related in scale and kind to the proposed development the open space need is based on the potential number and type of occupants of a dwelling. For example a development of sheltered housing for the elderly could be acceptable without the provision of a children's play area but would require CROS.

7.4 The expected occupancy of the dwelling is first estimated. Family cycles change and variations in occupancy levels of dwellings will occur over time, however the provision of open space is a long term measure, so it is important to make sufficient provision for each proposed dwelling. Allowing for average household size in Wales, a figure of 3 persons per dwelling has been agreed as a reasonable level of expected occupancy per dwelling.

7.5 Where numbers and type of dwellings are unknown (e.g. outline applications), the requirement for open space provision would have to be reserved through a planning condition or legal agreement to enable the matter to be resolved when a detailed application is made.

7.6 It is vitally important that all play areas are well designed and laid out in appropriate locations to ensure that they are well used. Poorly designed and located play areas, often small 'left over' areas can create amenity problems for residents or be under used and fall into disrepair and neglect. Sites should make full use of existing features such as public footpaths and trees and ensure wherever possible these are retained on site. Sites should be attractive for all users providing a pleasant environment for relaxation as well as a safe environment for children's play. Siting to allow for natural surveillance and road safety should be considered as part of the design process.

8 METHODS OF PROVISION

-
- 8.1 Once the open space requirement has been established it is then necessary to determine how that open space will be provided. There are three possible options which are given in order of preference below:
- i. Provision on site
 - ii. In certain instances provided off site but adjacent to or in close proximity, and convenient and accessible from the development.
 - iii. Provided by payment of a 'commuted sum' to enable the Council to provide and maintain the open space on behalf of the applicant in the Community Area.
 - iv. Provided by payment of a 'commuted sum' to enable the Council to add value to existing facilities to better meet local needs in the Community Area.
- 8.2 Whenever practicable, open space should always be provided on site. In certain instances, provision could be made off site where it can be demonstrated that this would improve the quality of both the development and the open space provided and better meet the needs of the locality.
- 8.3 The consideration of commuted sums will be made where the provision of open space on or close to the site is not practical and there is no possibility of improving existing nearby provision to increase capacity and usage.
- 8.4 Where a site is to be developed in phases an estimation will be made of the total likely occupancy of the whole site and the open space to be provided calculated on this basis. The open space provision should be laid out in conjunction with phase 1 of the development to ensure that it is provided in a planned manner and forms an integral part of the design of the development.

9 COMMUTED SUMS

- 9.1 The use of commuted sums and legal agreements for securing open space contributions will be made in accordance with Welsh Office circular 13/97 'Planning Obligations'. Contributions will be required on all sites of 10 or more units where provision cannot be made on site, unless existing open space provision is adequate.
- 9.2 Funds can be used to lay out new open space or to enhance existing provision, thereby increasing usage. Valid improvements to existing provision include improvements to make the site more accessible, drainage works to extend the usage of the facility; fencing works, provision of changing facilities and car parking, floodlighting, or other essential services. Funds will not be used for the normal maintenance of existing open space.
- 9.3 Money generated from commuted sums will be held in an account and will normally be used in the same Community Council area as the development. Exceptions to this may occur where a development borders a neighbouring Community and the open space provided would be of greater or equal benefit to the residents of the new development or where there are no suitable sites within the Community Council area.
- 9.4 Funds which have not been committed within 8 years from the date of payment or 5 years from completion of the development whichever is the later, will be returned to the applicant.
- 9.5 Many residential developments within the County during the plan period will be small scale. In cases where it would be impractical or unreasonable for a development to

accommodate useful areas of open space at the agreed standard, and the Council accept that provision of some or all of the recreational open space is to be covered by contributions, they shall be calculated on the following basis.

10 COSTINGS

- 10.1 The costs to the County of providing open space have been calculated as shown in Table 1. These costs do not include an element for land purchase, where this is necessary, the sum required will be recalculated to include this element. These costs are also exclusive of maintenance elements, these will be calculated on the basis of the type of open space to be provided and multiplied to cover a 25 year period including inflation costs. The costs in Table 1 will be index linked to take account of inflation and a revised costing issued each year following the issue of a public notice.

Table 1 Costs of Laying Out Open Space (Based on Adopted County Standard)

		Per Person (£)	Per sq. Metre (£)
Community Recreational Open Space	24m ² /person	240	10
Children's	8m ² /person	210	26.25
Total	32m ² /person	450	

11 EXAMPLES

Example A - 10 Dwellings 4 @2 bedrooms, 3 @ 3 Bedrooms, 3 @ 4 bedrooms

In an area deficient in CROS and Children's play space.

Total Occupancy = 10 x 3 = 30

Total Open Space Requirement = 960 sq. Metres

CROS 30 x 24 sq. Metres = 720 sq. Metres

Children's 30 x 8 sq. Metres = 240 sq. Metres

In this case the open space cannot be met by existing provision on or off site, therefore a commuted sum is required.

Cost of Laying Out Facility

CROS 720 x £ 10.00 = £ 7,200

Children's 240 x £ 26.25 = £ 6,300

COMMUTED SUM = £ 13,500

Example B - 20 Dwellings all 3 Bedrooms

In an area deficient in CROS and Children's play space.

Total Occupancy = 20 x 3 = 60

Total Open Space Requirement = 1920 sq. Metres

CROS 60 x 24 sq. Metres = 1440 sq. Metres

Children's 60 x 8 sq. Metres = 480 sq. Metres

Cost of Laying Out Facility

CROS 1440 x £ 10.00 = £ 14,400

Children's to be provided on site, so no commuted sum.

COMMUTED SUM = £14,400

In this example due to the size of the development, it would be expected that the children's play space would be provided on site. It is assumed that it would not be

practical to meet the CROS requirement on-site or off-site, and therefore a commuted sum, would be required. In some situations the open space requirement could be partially met on-site and any remaining provision could be made off-site or via commuted sums. Appropriate arrangements for the future maintenance of the open space provided on site would also have to be made either with the developer or an agreed responsible body.

12 MAINTENANCE

- 12.1 Where landscaped amenity open space and recreational open space has been provided on or close to the development, the Council will require developers to make appropriate arrangements for the future maintenance of this open space. If the Council and the developer reach an agreement that the Council will maintain the open space then the developer will be required to provide a commuted sum for this purpose. The use of commuted sums and legal agreements for securing maintenance will be made in accordance with Welsh Office circular 13/97 'Planning Obligations'.
- 12.2 Where developers do not intend to enter into an agreement with the Council over the future maintenance of open space, then the Council will need to be satisfied that appropriate alternative arrangements have been made for long term maintenance; for example by the establishment of a sufficiently resourced management company, residents association or Community Council responsible for their upkeep.

13 OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM

- 13.1 This SPG note will be issued with all relevant planning application forms. Pre-application discussion with the case officer is welcomed in order to explain open space requirements. As part of assessing the planning application, the open space requirement will be calculated and where applicable any maintenance requirements, and the applicant informed.
- 13.2 Where planning permission is likely to be granted and a commuted sum is required, the applicant may:
- 1) Make a **voluntary payment** before the decision is issued, or
 - 2) Enter into a **legal agreement** with the Council. This will require the financial contribution to be made prior to the commencement of the development.

Where payment of a commuted sum is required, a decision notice will only be issued once the payment has been received.

- 13.3 In the event of an appeal following a refusal of a planning application to which open space provision or a commuted sum would be required, the Council will seek the imposition of a condition or legal agreement to ensure that the necessary provision is made in the event of the appeal being allowed.

Report to Cabinet

From: Cllr. M A German, Lead Member for Sustainable Development and Environment

Date: 10 September 2002

Subject: Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG): Static Caravan and Chalets

1. Decision Sought

1.1 To seek approval of the attached Supplementary Planning Guidance (appendix 1) as a consultation draft which will be subject to a six week consultation period.

2. Reasons for Seeking a Decision

2.1 The Denbighshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP) is now adopted and existing SPG is being updated and new SPG prepared where necessary. The SPG attached to this report will supplement policy TSM9 of the Denbighshire UDP, which will provide further guidance to members, officers and developers in the submission and assessment of development proposals for static caravan and chalet sites. In particular, the SPG will address the size of proposals, including their physical, environmental and social impact. The SPG was approved as draft at the July Planning Committee.

2.2 SPG must be subject to public consultation prior to a Council resolution to adopt it. Once adopted it can be taken into account as a material consideration in determining applications for planning permission.

2.3 Details of public consultation procedures are set out below.

3. Cost Implications

3.1 There are no additional cost implications.

4. Financial Controller Statement

4.1 There are no additional costs to the Council arising from the recommendations in this report and accordingly there is no adverse impact on the Council's Corporate Objective to deliver balances of £1.0m by the end of the current financial year

5. Consultation Carried Out

5.1 The draft SPG has NOT been subject to an external public consultation exercise.

5.2 If approved by Cabinet, the SPG will be subject to a 6 week external public consultation period and will be made available as follows:

- Notifying all Members;
- Sending copies to all community and town councils;
- Making copies available at all Council offices, libraries, one stop shops and the Council's website;
- Notifying developers and/or agents who may have an involvement in submitting planning applications for static caravan/chalet development;
- Notifying everyone who made representations to policy TSM9 of the UDP comment.

5.3 Following the six week public consultation period a further report will be submitted for cabinet in order to adopt the SPG. All comments submitted during the 6 week consultation period will be made publicly available, including the officer's response to them.

6. Implications on Other Policy Areas Including Corporate

6.1 There are no implications on other policy areas.

7. Recommendation

7.1 That Members approve the attached draft SPG prior to it being subject to a 6 week public consultation period.

Appendix 1

Denbighshire County Council
Planning Services

Supplementary Planning Guidance 25 (SPG 25)

Static Caravan and Chalet Development

Consultation Draft
July 2002

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND POLICY CONTEXT

1. Introduction

This note is one of a series of Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) Notes amplifying the development plan policies and other issues in a clear and concise format with the aim of improving the design and quality of new development. The notes are intended to offer broad guidance which will assist members of the public and officers prior to the submission of planning applications and assist officers in handling and Members in determining planning applications.

2. Status and Stages in Preparation

The Council's SPG Notes are not part of the adopted plan. However, they have been the subject of both a formal Council resolution and public consultation. The National Assembly Government has confirmed that SPG can be treated as a material planning consideration when Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), Planning Inspectors and the National Assembly Government determine planning applications and appeals. A statement of the public consultation that accompanied the preparation of this SPG is contained in a separate Annex, which includes a summary of the comments and the Council's response to them. This SPG was approved by the Council on [date to be confirmed].

3. Background to Issues

Denbighshire County Council recognise the contribution that static caravans and chalets have upon the County's local economy. The Unitary Development Plan (UDP) aims to provide opportunities for sensitive and unobtrusive development of such sites. The protection of the quality of the environment will be a primary consideration and proposals will be subject to a stringent environmental assessment. The impact of any proposal upon the overall character of a community, both through socio-economic and/or linguistic impact, will also be carefully assessed.,

4. This document is divided into two main sections:

- (1) Outline of the policy and guidance on interpreting the policy and its criteria;
- (2) Detailed advice on siting, design, layout etc. intended for proposals which, in principle, have satisfied the policy criteria.

5. National and Local Planning Policy Background

This SPG supplements policy TSM9 'Static Caravan and Chalet Development' of the adopted Denbighshire Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

6. National planning guidance relating to static caravan and chalet development is contained in Planning Policy Wales (2002) and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 13: *Tourism*.

SECTION 2

INTERPRETATION OF POLICY ISSUES

7. Tourism Proposals in Denbighshire

The important contribution that tourism makes to the local economy of Denbighshire is recognised in the UDP. The **UDP Part I** Strategic Policy for tourism is **STRAT 9** which applies a specific spatial strategy to tourism development, as follows:

STRAT 9 Tourism

“Tourism development proposals in the form of:

- (i) tourism projects in the coastal resorts of Rhyl and Prestatyn or as part of Major Mixed Development Areas or allocated sites at Rhuddlan and Corwen;*
- (ii) small scale built or natural environment based tourism projects in the countryside and rural settlements;*

Will be permitted where they provide appropriate infrastructure, accommodation and attractions and which consolidate and diversify the tourism industry without unacceptably affecting the social, highway, amenity, heritage or environmental interests.”

8. Spatial Strategy

Policy STRAT 9 (above), the UDP’s General Development Strategy and the Council’s wider economic/tourism strategy, will form the basis of the **spatial strategy** that the LPA will apply in determining applications for static caravans/chalet development. This **spatial strategy** is set out in paragraph 12.3.2 of the UDP’s Tourism chapter, and is based upon the **scale of the development**. In determining applications for caravan or chalet development, the County Council will aim to:

- *Concentrate **major development proposals** whether new build, redevelopment or conversion, **within main settlements**; and then*
- *Proportionately **reduce** the size, scale and impact of proposals for **smaller settlements**;*
- *To ensure that in the **countryside** only **smaller scale proposals** based on capacity considerations are appropriate.*

9. UDP Policy TSM9: Static Caravan and Chalet Development

In addition to the strategic tourism policy set out in paras. 7-8 above, specific advice on new static caravan and chalet sites is found in policy TSM9, which is set out in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1:

Static Caravan & Chalet Development Policy TSM 9

NEW STATIC CARAVAN AND/OR CHALET SITES WILL BE PERMITTED WHERE THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:

- i) THE SITE HAS GOOD ACCESSIBILITY TO AN ADEQUATE LOCAL HIGHWAY NETWORK AND IS ACCESSIBLE BY A CHOICE OF MEANS OF TRANSPORT;
- ii) THE SITE CAN BE UNOBTRUSIVELY SITED AND FULLY ASSIMILATED INTO THE LANDSCAPE;
- iii) THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT UNACCEPTABLY HARM THE AONB, AOB, HISTORIC LANDSCAPES/GARDENS, CONSERVATION AREAS, UNDEVELOPED COAST, GOOD AGRICULTURAL LAND, AREAS OF LOCAL LANDSCAPE VALUE, SSSI'S OR LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES, INCLUDING THOSE IDENTIFIED AND SHOWN ON PROPOSALS MAPS.

Whilst a popular and thriving form of tourist holiday accommodation, the County is already well served, if not over provided on the coast by such uses, many of which present a conspicuous and unsightly appearance. It is highly unlikely that even in the inland areas a case could be justified for new sites.

Large static caravan and chalet parks are difficult to site and extend over large areas often dominating and degrading the landscape.

A 'Caravan' is defined by the Caravan Sites Act 1968 as "any structure designed and adapted for human habitation which is capable of being moved from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer) and any motor vehicle so designed, but does not include (a) any railway rolling stock which is for the time being on rails forming part of a railway system, or (b) any tent."

10. The main considerations of policy TSM9 are transportation; landscape and the environment. Each of these are considered in turn below.

11. **Transportation**

A new static caravan or chalet site will have an impact upon the local road network. The **UDP's Part I** strategic policy on transport is set out in policy **STRAT 1** and applicants should have regard to this:

"Development should seek to be sustainable, making the best use of resources by being located so as to minimise the need for travel by private car and utilise existing infrastructure, facilities and services."

12. More detailed **UDP Part II** transportation policies to which applicants for caravan and chalet developments must have regard include:

- **Policy TRA6** 'Impact of New Development on Traffic Flows'
- **Policy TRA8** 'Transport Requirements in Major Developments'

13. The bullet points below provide an overview of the transportation considerations which must be considered as part of any application for planning permission:

- New caravan and chalet sites must have a **good transportation infrastructure** and must not affect the safe and free flow of traffic;
- Sites must ideally have **direct access** to an A or B classified road. This would avoid placing unreasonable pressure on minor country roads;
- The site must ideally be served by **footpaths** and **cycleways**. Where this is not possible, the Local Planning Authority must be satisfied that pedestrians and cyclists can enter and leave the site **safely**;
- The site must also be within reasonable walking distance to a **public transport** (i.e. bus or train) service which serves local centres. Where this is not possible, the applicant may wish to explore the option of contributing towards subsidising a public transport service to the site;
- Where necessary the LPA may require the developer to submit a **Traffic Impact Assessment**.

14. **Landscape and Environmental Considerations**

The impact of a caravan or chalet site upon the landscape will be a significant factor to which special attention will be given in the determination of a planning applications. The **UDP's Part I strategic** policy on landscape issues is **STRAT 7 Environment**:

"The Special Character of Denbighshire, its built heritage, countryside, coastline and environment will be safeguarded by:

....protecting and enhancing the nature conservation, biodiversity and landscape quality of the County including the aquatic environment both in rural and urban areas;

....taking account of physical or natural environmental considerations."

Static caravan or chalet park development must be **unobtrusive** and **fully assimilated** into the landscape. More detailed guidance relating to **layout and landscaping** is found in Section 2. Developers should have regard to the checklist below, which deals with landscape and environmental considerations:

- The **scale** of a development must respect its surrounding environment;
- In view of their environmental impact, larger developments will generally only be permitted **within** or **adjacent** to settlements (refer also to 'Spatial Strategy' in para. 8);
- Proposals in more rural locations must be relatively **small scale** and **sensitively** developed;
- Proposals should be sited in unobtrusive locations, and should **avoid** skylines, prominent hillsides or exposed sites.
- Developments should ideally be set against a **backdrop** of semi-mature / mature trees or within woodland settings. Sites which require extensive screening through new planting will **not** be appropriate.
- Proposals should **respect the topography** of the site and existing site levels should be retained wherever possible.
- All planning applications must be accompanied by a comprehensive **landscape scheme** (refer to Section 2 for further details);
- Close scrutiny should be given to **environmental designations** throughout the County and regard should be given to the following UDP policies where relevant:
 - *ENV2 Development Affecting the AONB/AOB;*
 - *ENV3 Local Landscape Areas;*
 - *ENV4 International / National Sites of Nature Conservation Value;*
 - *ENV5 Sites of Local Conservation Importance.*
 - *ENV11 Safeguarding of High Quality Agricultural Land;*
 - *CON5 Development Within Conservation Areas;*
 - *CON6 Development Adjacent to Conservation Areas;*

15. **Other Strategic Policy Considerations**

Further important considerations in determining applications for caravan and chalet development will be as follows:

- (a) **The utilisation of previously developed land and any loss of greenfield land:**
- Static caravan and chalet developments often cover a large area of land, encroaching both greenfield land and land of high agricultural or ecological value;
 - Previously developed land should, wherever possible, be used in preference to greenfield sites, particularly those of high agricultural or ecological value;
- [Planning Policy Wales (2002), Para 2.7; Denbighshire UDP Strategic Objective - Environment; and STRAT1 General]*
- (b) **To maintain, protect and enhance as far as possible through land use planning the character of communities**
- Static Caravan and Chalet Parks, particularly larger ones, may have an adverse effect upon the character of a local community. The impact upon communities will be assessed in terms of:
 - Welsh language and culture;
 - Socio-economic structure of the area and impact upon local services;
- [UDP: Strategic Objective - Social]*

SECTION 2:

DETAILED DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

16. Topography

- The layout of static caravans and chalets should **respect the existing topography** of the site. The natural contours of the landscape should be used where possible to reduce the visual impact of a proposal.
- In certain circumstances minor changes in level will be necessary in parts of a proposed site. Where this is the case, the preference will be for cutting into slopes rather than creating platforms for building.

17. Density

- Chalet and Static Caravan development, sited away from existing buildings should be **low density**, with sufficient separation between units, particularly between chalet units.
- This should be fitting with the rural nature of the surroundings, ensuring the character of the area remains open and rural.
- Low density development will also provide a good standard of amenity and privacy to occupants.

18. Layout of Units

- Suburban type layouts will **not** be acceptable. The site layout should be **open plan**, with no formally defined curtilage for each chalet or static caravan.
- Instead of formal curtilages for each individual unit, a high quality and **integrated landscaping scheme** for the entire site shall be encouraged.
- As part of the overall landscaping and layout of large sites, the site should be broken up into smaller clusters of no more than 10 units in each **cluster**.

19. Roads and Parking

- The **access road and internal road layout** should reflect the character of the area. Formal hard surfacing with raised concrete kerbs can look out of place in a rural setting.
- In many cases, a less formal solution may be more appropriate and will be encouraged by the LPA.
- This may include an internal road utilising gravel / wood chippings and no raised concrete kerbs.
- The overall layout of a site should include **informal open areas**, which would provide space for informal recreation.
- **Car parking** should be to the side or the rear of individual units and away from the main elevation.
- Large centralised parking areas should be avoided.

20. On site buildings

- In open countryside, on site buildings such as manager's accommodation, laundrettes etc should utilise **existing buildings**;
- Where this is not possible, buildings will only be permitted on the site where they are necessary for the effective operation of the site. Their visual impact should be kept to a minimum through careful siting and design.

21. Landscaping

- The Local Planning Authority will place great emphasis on achieving **high quality hard and soft landscaping**, which will help to integrate the development into its setting.

- Developers will be expected to submit a **scheme of landscaping** as part of the application. The landscaping should be submitted as an integrated scheme for the entire site.
- **Soft landscaping** should focus on native species, and take into account the cover to be provided throughout the seasons, as well as the species and cover adjacent to the site. The use of fast growing conifers will not be acceptable.
- In assessing **screening** of any proposed sites, it will be necessary to consider whether the operator of the proposed site will have control over the woodland which provides the screening, in order to avoid a situation where a site might later be exposed to view due to felling operations by the adjoining landowner.
- The overall layout of large sites should be broken up into smaller clusters of no more than 10 units in each cluster.
- **Hard surfacing** should be kept to an absolute minimum and should generally be limited to access roads, footpaths and car parking.
- Lighting should generally be kept to a minimum and where required should be designed so as to minimise light pollution by utilising low level, low intensity illumination.

22. Occupancy Restrictions

Conditions will be imposed to restrict occupancy for holiday purposes only. This is primarily to ensure that chalets and static caravans are not used as residential accommodation.

REPORT TO CABINET**AGENDA ITEM NO: 8 [CABINET 2002 -159]****CABINET MEMBER:** Councillor J A Smith, Lead Member for Social Inclusion**DATE:** 10 September 2002**SUBJECT:** Progress on development of the Communities First Programme**1 DECISION SOUGHT**

That Cabinet note and approve action to develop the Communities First programme in West and South West Rhyl

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Following previous reports to Cabinet in June, a Shadow Steering Group was established for the Communities First Partnership. The first meeting of the Shadow Group was held on 18 July 2002.

2.2 The Shadow Steering Group decided that a bid to the Welsh Assembly Government for preparatory work towards the establishment of a formal partnership should be submitted. The details of this are attached as Appendix I.

2.3 The Assembly have indicated that they have all the information they require in order to make a decision. Once approval has been received, job descriptions are already in place for Co-ordinator posts- which should enable rapid progress to be made.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific cost implications arising from this report

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There are no cost implications arising from the recommendation and accordingly there is no adverse impact on Denbighshire's budgetary position and the Council's Corporate Objective to deliver balances of £1.0m by the end of the current financial year.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The membership of the Shadow Steering Group was subject to careful consultation with local members and local community organisations. The content of the preparatory bid was discussed by the Shadow Steering Group and endorsed by the Chair before submission to the Welsh Assembly.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

Communities First is a major Assembly programme designed to support focussed action in Wales' most deprived communities. It represents a major opportunity in the Authority's wider endeavours to regenerate Rhyl and in terms of its priority to remove the most deprived communities in Denbighshire from the top 50 wards in Wales by 2012.

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Cabinet note and approve action to take forward the Communities First programme in West and South West Rhyl.

COMMUNITIES FIRST- PREPARATORY BID- DENBIGHSHIRE

The first meeting of the Shadow Steering Group for the Denbighshire Communities First Partnership was held on 18th July.

The representation on the Shadow Steering Group has been based on the three thirds principle set out in the Communities First guidance and was brought together following consultation with stakeholders in the community. Membership comprises Cllr Joan Butterfield and Cllr Dave Thomas representing the statutory sector, Mrs Margaret McCarroll representing Clwyd Coast Credit Union and Mrs E Smith from Rhyl Environmental Association representing the business/voluntary sector and Mr Peter Smith and Mr Bill Gough representing the West/South West Rhyl Community Strategy. It is envisaged that a full Partnership will be established within 6 months.

The first meeting was also attended by officers of West Rhyl/South West Rhyl Community Strategy, the People in Communities Co-ordinator and officers of the County Council.

The meeting decided that a preparatory bid should be put forward to enable development work to start, as shown below. The detail of the bid has been endorsed following the meeting by the Chair of the Shadow Steering Group- Dave Thomas.

Costings are shown for an initial 3 year period, though plainly the resources may be required for longer, depending on the shape of the agreed Capacity Building Plan and Community Action Plan. It is felt essential to be able to offer a reasonable contract period to potential staff to assist with recruitment and retention of good quality candidates. Denbighshire will act as the lead body in terms of employing staff and providing line management and the staff will be accountable to the Communities First Partnership. The Steering Group are basing the bid on the expected pattern of spend in the first 6 months though they may well want to review costs as the direction becomes clearer.

The draft Job Descriptions for the Communities First Co-ordinator posts and the Admin Assistant posts were distributed at the meeting and, once finalised and funding approval granted by the Assembly, these posts can be immediately advertised.

Though the two wards are adjacent, the Steering Group felt firmly that as the two wards were so different, they wish to appoint 2 Co-ordinators and admin support, in order to give the scheme a reasonable chance of success. Conversely, it was felt that the staff should be based together, for mutual support and learning purposes and so that some basic facilities (eg meeting room) could be shared. An amount has been put in the preparatory bid for premises costs on this basis. It is envisaged that the Communities First staff will co-locate with other community development /community regeneration staff already based or proposed to be based in Rhyl. These options are being explored as a way of multiplying the impact of the Communities First initiative.

The final component of the preparatory bid relates to initial running costs. These costs are based on assumed expenditure in the initial period relating to setting up costs and office running costs, room hire, community consultation, audit work, training needs (staff, communities, statutory organisations), publicity material, networking with other Communities First areas etc. All costs shown are at 2002/03 prices, though uplifts would be required in future years to take account of inflation and incremental salary increases.

	2002/03 (half year)	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06 (half year)
Advertising costs (staff) and community awareness raising	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,500
Communities First Co-ordinator (West Rhyl) (SCP 33 - 36) plus on-costs @ 20%	13,782	27,565	27,565	13,782
Travel and subsistence	500	1,000	1,000	500
Communities First Co-ordinator (South West Rhyl) (SCP 33 - 36) plus on-costs @ 20%	13,782	27,565	27,565	13,782
Travel and subsistence	500	1,000	1,000	500
Admin support/resource worker (x2) (SCP 14 - 17) plus on-costs @ 20%	16,200	32,400	32,400	16,200
Travel and subsistence (admin staff)	250	500	500	250
Premises costs	10,000*	20,000*	20,000*	10,000*
Setting up costs (furniture, equipment etc)	20,000			
Initial running costs	5,000	10,000	10,000	5,000
Capacity building activities	2,500	5,000	5,000	2,500
Total	85,514	128,030	128,030	64,014

* The Partnership may seek a one-off contribution in the future for the purchase of a suitable property, thus reducing the need to rent

Report to Cabinet

Report By: Chief Executive

Date: 10 September 2002

SUBJECT: CONTRACT SERVICES

1 Decision Sought

1.1 To note the proposed transfer of Contract Services Department from the Chief Executive's Department to the Environment Directorate. Cabinet decisions on virement of resources to the Environment Directorate will be sought once the detail of the transfer has been worked up and consultation has been completed.

2 Reasons for Seeking Decision

2.1 I have been indicating for some time that it is timely to review the location of the Contract Services Department because of the ending of compulsory competitive tendering, the introduction of executive arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000 and my arrival. Denbighshire is believed to be unique in Wales, if not more widely, in having the former direct services organisation reporting directly to the Chief Executive. The present structure derives from a particular historical set of circumstances, leading the Council to commission a report by Capita Consultancy in September 1997 which recommended the current arrangements. This structure has served for Contract Services Dept and the Council well, but is now time to reassess its location in the light of the ending of the CCT regime which was in force at the time of the original Council decision.

2.2 I have considered but discounted the option of privatising contract services at the present time, whether by selling the operation as a going concern to a private company or via a management buy out. The council would lose flexibility which it needs on a number of fronts (as will be apparent in a forthcoming report on the waste management strategy) and, in the short term, we would waste energy on seeking political, union and staff acceptance of such a change. However in accordance with best value legislation and following the self-assessment under the whole authority analysis, we may need to look again in the future at the long term management arrangements.

2.3 I have decided to change the location of the Contract Services Department within the departmental structure of the Council. It is proposed to implement the change with effect from 1 January 2003.

2.4 Contract Services have been brought within the same financial control mechanisms as the Council's other activities. However there is the opportunity to go further and remove the "profit" element which is ultimately paid for by the Council: instead, funding of a specific amount should be provided to deliver a specified level of service, leaving managers free to manage the service to deliver the agreed outcomes. Budgets for 2003-04 onwards can be set on this basis but we can move to the new funding model before then. Consideration will need to be given to the funding of Contract Services capital requirements.

2.5 The appendix sets out a summary of the detailed changes that would be required. They will be the subject of consultation with unions and staff. The changes are not expected to result in any staff being declared redundant although they will result in changes to job descriptions.

2.6 The only aspect of this change that may, in due course, require the full Cabinet's agreement is to vire resources to the Environment Directorate from elsewhere in the existing budget structure. Subject to the outcome of job evaluation procedures, the changes are not expected to add to the cost of providing services.

3 Cost Implications

- 3.1 It is not considered that operational costs will change as a result of the transfer. Efficiency gains are expected as a result of the simplification of the Client / Contractor relationship.

4 Financial Controller's Statement

- 4.1 The financial impact of the changes detailed in the report will be analysed and built into Directorate budgets for next financial year during the budget setting exercise this Autumn, as will any necessary changes to the current year's budget.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 I have discussed the proposed change with the Assistant Chief Executive (Contract Services) and Corporate Directors. They are content with the thrust of the proposal.

6 Impact on corporate policies

- 6.1 The changes will free up resources from the client side to concentrate on policy development and other work; and will empower managers in contract services to deliver clear targets in return for a specific level of financial input.

7 Recommendation

- 7.1 That the Cabinet notes the proposed transfer of Contract Services Department from the Chief Executive's Department to the Environment Directorate with effect from 1 January 2003; and that decisions on virement of resources to the Environment Directorate will be sought once the detail of the transfer has been worked up and consultation has been completed.

Appendix - summary of proposed changes

The Contract Services Department would be kept as one unit for now, so there are no “rebadging” costs. This would be reviewed in due course in the light of performance following implementation of the change.

The Contract Services Department would be located within the Environment Directorate with effect from 1 January 2003.

The Assistant Chief Executive (Contract Services) would be redesignated as Assistant Director, Contract Services and will report to the Corporate Director - Environment.

Internal contracts are inflexible and involve a rigid and costly bureaucracy, invoices etc. - we should sweep this away. But we should keep the important disciplines of delivering a specific level of service for an agreed level of financial input.

Resources should be allocated to the Corporate Director - Environment to deliver an agreed level of service. Funding would not include the current “profit” element. This would be freed up in future years for spending on the council’s priorities. Replacement equipment etc for use by Contract services should be funded from the overall capital programme from 2003-04 onwards and should be assessed alongside other capital priorities.

There would be an impact on managers in Directorates which currently act as clients for the services. This would free up time for them to concentrate on strategic and policy work. Job descriptions of staff concerned in Directorates and in Contract Services would need to be amended and re-evaluated.

Political accountability should remain as now via the relevant lead members e.g. education catering via lead member for lifelong learning etc. The Assistant Director, Contract Services would therefore need to hold meetings with all relevant Cabinet Members to maintain close relationships with all relevant Cabinet members, to brief them on performance etc.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR E A OWENS, LEAD MEMBER FOR FINANCE

DATE: 10 SEPTEMBER 2002

SUBJECT: REVENUE BUDGET

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To advise Members of the current position in relation to the Revenue Budget, and the approach taken to address the current potential overspends.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 The July Cabinet paper indicated that there was a predicted overspend of £460k. In addition £48k has been approved for Health and Safety expenditure in relation to chlorination. The effect of the proposed pay award is estimated at £290k. The total potential overspend is therefore in the region of £798k.

2.2 Whilst it is possible to release some additional funding, this is not sufficient to cover the whole of the potential overspend. Based upon the current financial information, it is considered that funding can be released to an amount sufficient to cover the additional costs of the proposed pay award and the Health and Safety expenditure. In addition it is estimated that £200k is needed to cover costs of staff restructuring.

2.3 As a consequence of this approach, all Directorates will be expected to achieve their budget expenditure figures, inclusive of the distribution of the contingency fund.

2.4 Directorates will be allowed to retain the savings associated with the Day of Action in July. In addition, 50% of underspends in 2001/2002 will be distributed. Any cost savings associated with delaying in filling posts can also be retained.

2.5 The proposal in the July Cabinet paper to introduce a freezing of recruitment will be retained, subject to business critical or statutory posts which may be filled subject to the approval of the Chief Executive.

2.6 The adoption of this strategy means that no Directorate has to have a budget reduction. The position will be reviewed in November where further action may be necessary if the current level of spending has not been reduced.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The paper deals with the revenue budget for the Authority. The proposals mean that all currently available funding has been reduced.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 There is considerable evidence of high levels of expenditure across all Directorates, threatening the Authority's financial recovery plans. It is essential that expenditure remains under control and that Directorates meet their current year budgets.

4.2 These proposals cover the unanticipated costs, allowing Directorates to achieve the previously agreed budgets. This policy will be explained to individual budget holders in direct meetings with Cabinet Members.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 5.1 The proposals have been discussed at Informal Cabinet. They have also been discussed with the Corporate Director: Resources and Financial Controller. The proposals have been circulated to members of the Corporate Executive Team. All those consulted agree the proposals.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

- 6.1 The proposals are totally consistent with the overall financial strategy of maintaining the financial recovery plan, whilst endeavouring to ensure that service levels are maintained.

7 RECOMMENDATION

- 7,1 That Cabinet approve the proposals to address the current potential overspends, as outlined in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.6.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Leader
DATE: 10 September 2002
SUBJECT: 2002/2003 National Pay Award

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 For Cabinet Members to agree to support the ACAS pay proposals negotiated by the Employers side of the N.J.C. (see Appendix 1).

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1. The Unions submitted their pay claim in December 2001. The claim was for £1750 for every worker or 6%, whichever was the greater, which would add 12% to the paybill. With headline inflation at 0.7% at that time (standard normally used in negotiations) this would give the average local government employee an increase 13 times the current rate of inflation. The Unions were informed that their claim was unrealistic.

2.2. Local Authorities were consulted by questionnaire and regional meetings during January, prior to Employers meeting with Unions on 6 February. Employers offered 2.5% increase at the N.J.C. meeting on 6 February and the Unions were informed that Employers would not agree to any weighting of the pay award. The Unions rejected the offer.

2.3. At a meeting with the Unions on 28 February, local government employers offered a 3% wage rise. The ballot of union members resulted in rejection: Unison 3:1; GMB 9:1 on a 30% turnout; and TGWU 95.5%.

2.4. A ballot for industrial action took place between 10 June and 5 July. Although only a small minority of employees covered by the N.J.C. voted in favor of industrial action, a national strike took place on 17 July. 66% of Denbighshire County Council employees took part in strike action, which was reflected nationally.

2.5. Further strike action was announced for 14 August and selective action from 15 August and beyond.

2.6. The Employers' Organisation and the Unions met with ACAS conciliators on several occasions between 23 July and 5 August, following which the N.J.C. Employers' Side agreed unanimously to recommend ACAS proposals to authorities (detailed in Appendix 1).

2.7. The Unions agreed to suspend all industrial action whilst both sides consult their respective constituents. We understand that the Unions process will end on 20 September.

Recommendations

2.8. There are two elements to ACAS' recommendations:

1. Pay Award

That with effect from 1 April, 2002 the following increases should apply:-

A. 3% increase or a minimum of £5 (4.1%) an hour from 1 April, 2002

B. 1% increase from 1 October, 2002 with an additional 1% increase for those on spine points 4 and 5, both calculated with reference to pay rates effective on 31 March, 2002.

C. 3.5% increase from 1 April, 2003 to 31 March 2004, with an additional 1% increase for those on spine points 4 and 5 (4.5%).

2. Commission on Pay and Related Issues

The N.J.C. will set up a commission on jointly agreed terms of reference to look into pay and related issues by the end of August 2003. The Joint Secretaries will set out each side's agenda for the scope of the Commission. The Commission will have an independent Chair and Independent Advisers.

The commission will report its findings to the N.J.C. This work should not be a reason to delay any local progress on single status pay and grading reviews.

2.9. Other options ultimately available to the Employers were:-

- i. To recommend the ACAS proposals;
- ii. To initiate arbitration for a 1 year deal;
- iii. To stick at 3%/£5 an hour for 2002/3; offer a specific three year deal (which the Employers' Organisation know the unions would not accept); to advise authorities to put the 3%/£5 an hour in pay packets in September and break off all contact with the Unions.

Of these options, the employers concluded that the first was the "least worst".

The Employers' Organisation are of the view that the ACAS proposals are the best that could be achieved through a negotiation process and require a Yes/No decision (see point 1) by 16 September, 2002.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

3.1. For 9 out of 10 staff, the ACAS proposals amount to a phased 4% increase for this year (costing 3.5% in the first year), followed by 3.5% next year. For those on the bottom two spinal column points, the percentage increases would be considerably higher (10.9% over two years for spine point 4; 9.7% over two years for spine point 5).

3.2. The total national cost of the proposals would be 7.8% over 2 years.

3.3. For Denbighshire County Council this additional cost amounts to £290,000 for 2002/03 broken down as follows:-

Personal Services	£60k
Life Long Learning	£62k
Environment	£37k
Contract Services	£100k* (includes all point 4 and 5 impact)
Resources	£26k
Chief Executive's	£5k

3.4. The proposals would increase the paybill for 2003/04 by a further 3.57% which equates approximately to £2.4m.

The Assembly will be approached by the WLGA in next year's SSA discussions to fund the additional costs.

3.5. The pay deal has implications in the current year. Two possible routes to funding are:-

1. By releasing central funding provisions

2. Increased charges for services provided by authority, i.e. School meals, Leisure Centre prices with the balance to be found centrally.

It will be difficult to introduce these changes during the current financial year, however, it is strongly recommended that the increased costs are reflected in the proposed increase in fees and charges for the next financial year.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

The proposed funding of the likely costs of the award are included in the separate report on the agenda dealing with current year budget pressures.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The Employers' Organisation has been running a series of consultation meetings. The Leader and Head of Personnel attended a meeting of the WGLA Employers' Side of the Joint Council for Wales on 2 September.

The sounding from this forum was to accept the ACAS proposal.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The setting up of a Commission on Pay and related issues will report by August 2003, and could, therefore, have an impact on Corporate Policy from 2004 onwards.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1. That Cabinet Members agree to support the ACAS Pay Proposals on Appendix 1.

7.2. That the impact of the Pay award is considered when agreeing increases to fees and charges for the next financial year.

ACAS PAY PROPOSALS

AUTHORITY NAME.....

Do you consider that in the circumstances the Employers' Side of the NJC should accept the pay proposals* on behalf of local authorities, subject to the unions also accepting them?

YES

NO

Do you consider that the Employers should settle with the Craft unions on the same terms (except the bottom-loading which would not apply) and subject to the Craft unions also accepting them?

YES

NO

SIGNED.....

POSITION.....

DATE.....

* as set out in the attachment to the Employers' letter of 6 August, ie.

1. (a) 3% or a minimum of £5 an hour from 1 April 2002

(b) 1% from 1 October 2002 with an additional 1% for those on SCPs 4 & 5

(c) 3.5% from 1 April 2003 with an additional 1% for those on SCPs 4 & 5

2. Commission on pay and related issues to report back to the NJC by the end of August 2003.

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM BY 16 SEPTEMBER TO:
HARRY HONNOR, EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATION, LAYDEN HOUSE,
76-86 TURNMILL STREET, LONDON, EC1M 5LG**

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR M A GERMAN, LEAD MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 10 SEPTEMBER 2002

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF CHARGING IN CRISPIN YARD AND PARK ROAD CAR PARKS IN RUTHIN

1 DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1 To approve the introduction of charges at Crispin Yard - Clwyd Street car park (Ruthin), including a special low cost one hour charge.
- 1.2 To confirm the intention to introduce charges at the Park Road car park, Ruthin, following the completion of the car park construction.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

- 2.1 The Cabinet meeting on 16 July 2002 considered a report reviewing charging in selected car parks in Denbighshire. The report proposed introducing charges in the Post Office Lane (Denbigh), Hall Street (Llangollen), Crispin Yard - Clwyd Street (Ruthin), Rhos Street (Ruthin) and Troed y Rhiw (Ruthin) car parks, and to confirm the intention, when resources are available, to instal CCTV cameras and make other improvements at Barker's Well Lane multi storey car park (Denbigh) and to introduce charges at the car park following those improvements.
- 2.2 The results of consultation regarding extending charging were reported. Among the comments made were reservations about introducing charging in Crispin Yard - Clwyd Street car park on the basis that it would be unfair for parents and others taking their children to the nearby playground as it is the only such facility in the town.
- 2.3 The Cabinet agreed the introduction of charging at all the car parks except the Crispin Yard - Clwyd Street car park and recommended that charging at this car park be examined alongside the possibility of charging in the new Park Road car park. The Park Road car park has been constructed on the site of the former Highways and Transportation Department depot. The first stage of construction is largely complete. This has entailed the land reclamation of the site and the laying out of the car park with an unbound surface. Discussions are taking place with the WDA to seek funding to lay a macadam surface and mark out parking Bays.
- 2.4 The only convenient parking available for the playground in Ruthin is the Crispin Yard car park. The new Park Road car park is approximately 200 metres away from the playground and involves crossing a road, while there is little on-street parking in the vicinity. In the interests of safety it is preferred to have cars carrying young children discharging in a car park adjacent to the playground. The options to enable visitors to the playground to continue to use the Crispin Yard car park are either to allow them to park free of charge or to charge a nominal sum. Allowing free parking either for specific motorists or for a restricted length of time would present severe difficulties for enforcement. Instead therefore it is proposed to introduce a charge of 10p for the first hour.
- 2.5 The Park Road car park is located on the edge of Ruthin town centre. The policy accepted by Cabinet at its meeting on 14 February 2002 was to introduce charges at edge of town centre car parks on a long stay tariff. This would be consistent with encouraging a turnover of spaces in the car park to accommodate tourists visiting Ruthin Gaol and enabling Park Road residents to purchase annual season tickets to park safely off-street. This report recommends that the Cabinet should confirm the intention, when construction of the car park has been completed, to introduce charges on a long stay tariff.

2.6 If Cabinet approves the introduction of charges at the 2 car parks, the proposed charges and periods during which they would be payable are set out in the appendix.

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 The results of consultation were reported to the previous meeting of the Cabinet on 16 July 2002.

4 COST IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of additional ticket machines and signage will be approximately £5,000. This will be set off against future revenue, with all costs covered within twelve months.

5 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

5.1 The review and maximising of service income is one of the Council stated priorities.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 The implications are considered in paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 To approve the introduction of charges at Crispin Yard - Clwyd Street (Ruthin) car park.

7.2 To confirm the intention to introduce charges at the Park Road car park, Ruthin, following the completion of the car park construction.

APPENDIX

Proposed charges and periods during which they would be payable if the Cabinet decides to approve introduction of charges

	up to 1 hour	up to 2 hours	up to 4 hours	over 4 hours	coaches
Crispin Yard - Clwyd Street (Ruthin)	10p	25p	60p	£1.10	-
Park Road (Ruthin)	(25p)	25p	60p	£1.10	£2.80

Charges apply Monday to Sunday 0800 - 1700.

SEASON TICKETS - season tickets are available for use in all existing or proposed charged long stay car parks. The annual cost is £45. A discount price of £25 is offered for any Denbighshire resident of pensionable age who is the registered owner of a vehicle.

NOTE - Charges at Park Road car park would not be introduced until after construction has been completed.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR M A GERMAN, LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 10 September 2002

SUBJECT: Diversion Footpaths 35 and 99 in the Community of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd

1 DECISION SOUGHT

To authorise the County Clerk to proceed to make an Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert Public Footpath Nos. 35 and 99 in the Community of Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd as shown on the attached plan.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

The Council has received an application from the landowner to divert these footpaths (which form one continuous route) away from the yard of Pendyffryn. The applicant has put in an alternative route on the ground which in the view of the Head of Highways and Transportation satisfies the test that the alternative route is as substantially convenient as the original. The alternative route has the advantage that it does not form part of the driveway to Pendyffryn which is subject to vehicular user.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

The cost of making the Order to be borne by the Applicant Mr. James Seaman, Pendyffryn, Pentrecoch, Ruthin, Denbighshire.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There are no direct cost implications from this proposal.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

The local member Councillor Glyn Jones, Llanfair Community Council, various public utilities and user groups have been consulted the outcome of which is that no observations against the proposed diversion have been received.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

None

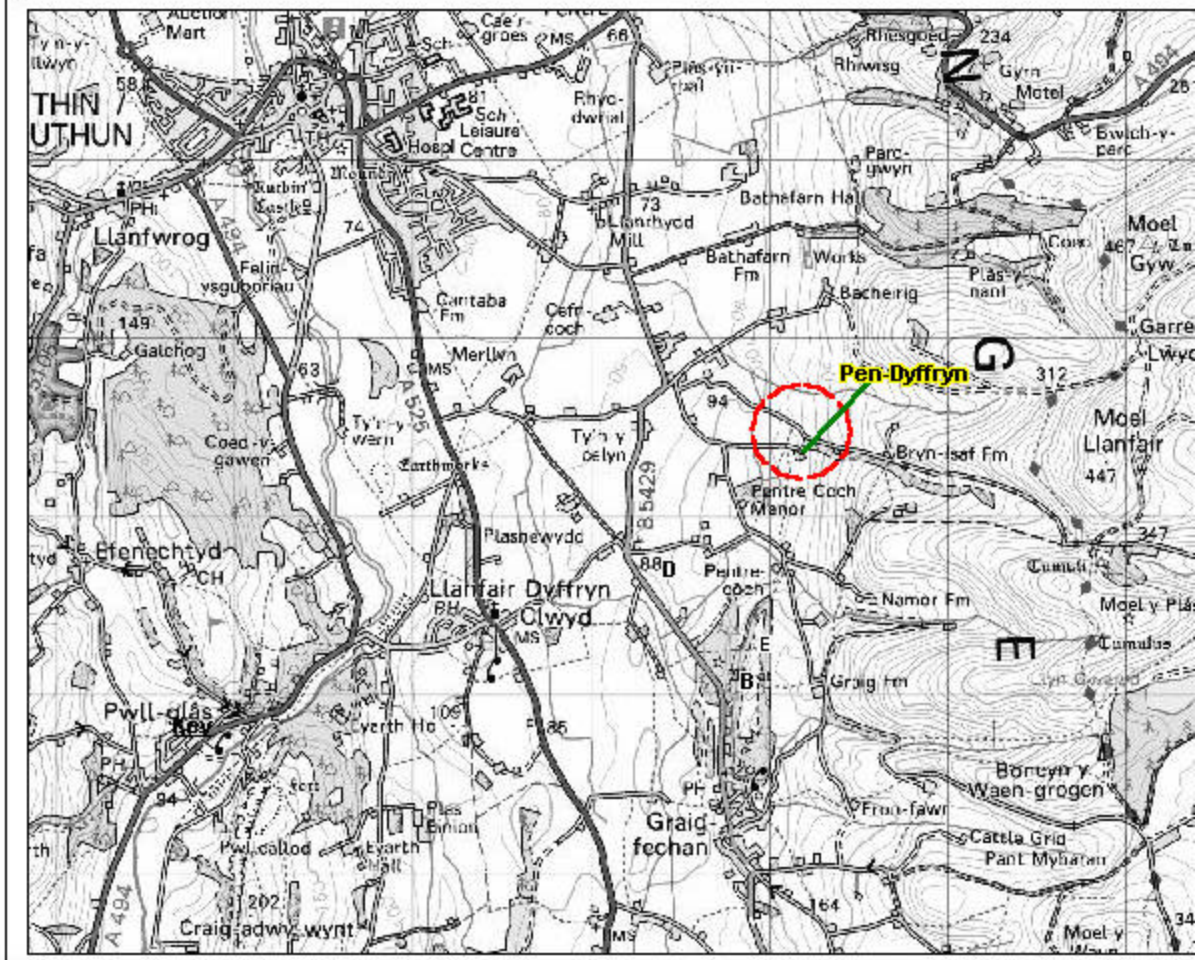
7 RECOMMENDATION

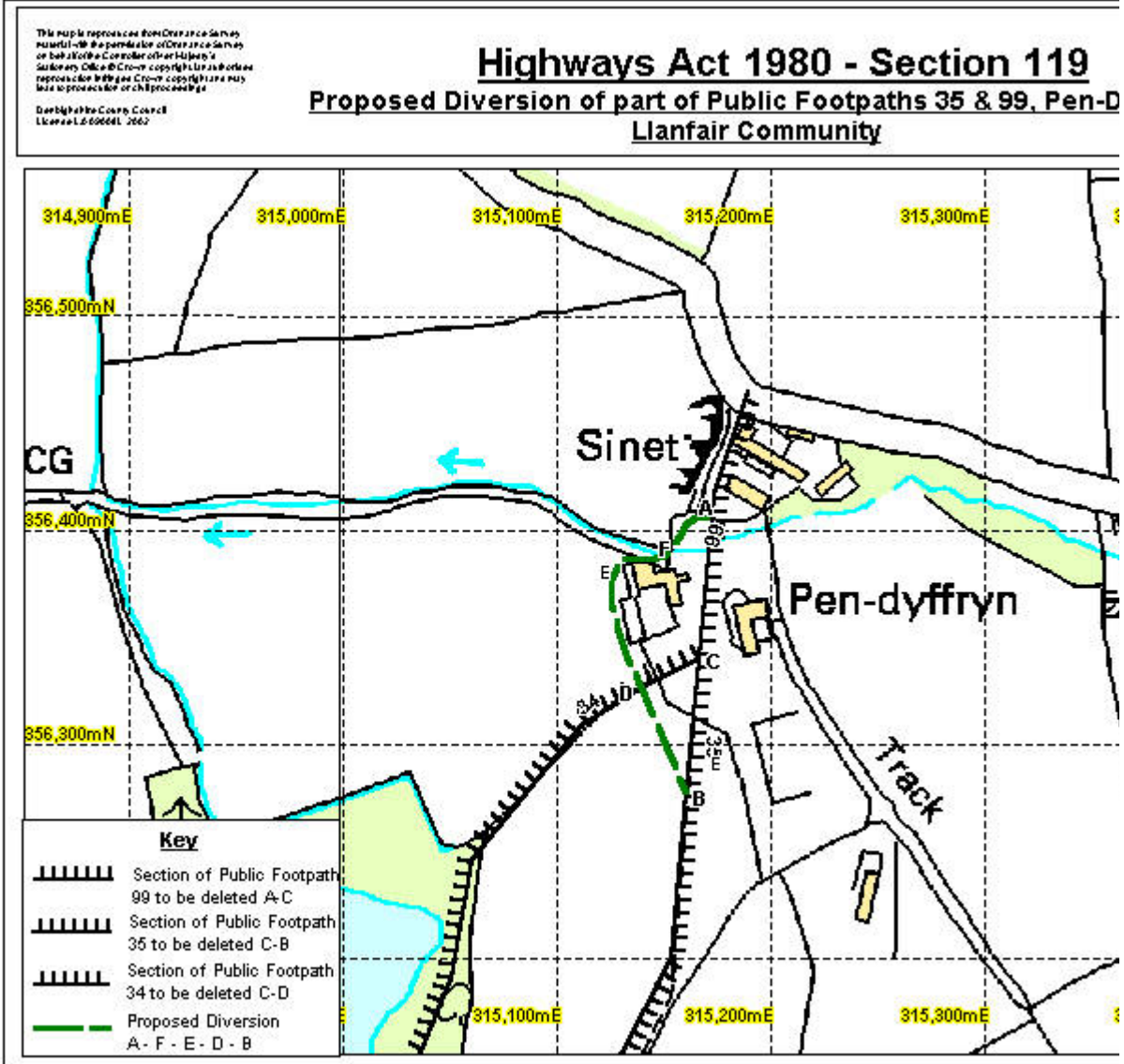
That the Cabinet authorises the County Clerk to proceed to make the appropriate Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. If objections are received which cannot be resolved, that the Order will be referred back to Cabinet to decide whether or not to submit the Order to the National Assembly for Wales for confirmation.

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Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd

Location Plan





REPORT TO CABINET

Report By: Leader

Date: 10 September 2002

Subject: PRESERVED COUNTIES

1 DECISION SOUGHT

1.1 To approve the response to the draft proposals from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales in respect of the preserved counties.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 Following an initial consultation undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales in the spring this year on the proposal to review the boundaries of preserved counties, the Commission has now published its draft proposals. Responses are required by 20 September 2002.

2.2 Overall, the Commission is recommending two significant changes one of which affects Denbighshire. The Commission has recommended that Conwy be included in the preserved County of Clwyd.

2.3 Denbighshire's response to the initial consultation was to recommend no change as there were no substantial issues warranting a change to the status quo. Gwynedd County Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council were not aware of any difficulties from current arrangements. Gwynedd was happy to leave arrangements as they are, but felt that if there were to be a change then the whole of Conwy County Borough Council area should be brought under the preserved county of Gwynedd.

2.4 Conwy argued for a fundamental review with the aim of modernising the system rather than changing the boundaries. In this it has been supported by the North Wales Association of Town Councils. Conwy also considered that there were anomalies in the current system which required addressing, e.g. the Justices of the Peace legislation which is organised on a North Wales basis and the Bailiwicks under the Sheriffs Act which are coterminous with pre 1974 County Authority boundaries.

2.5 The Audit Commission's view was that a radical overhaul was not required. The creation of 22 "preserved" counties was thought to be impractical and expensive as it would mean the creation of additional Lords Lieutenant and High Sheriffs. The Audit Commission therefore recommended minor to the areas in Wales where there were anomalies, namely Conwy and Caerphilly which are split between two preserved counties, and minor changes to the boundary between Mid and South Glamorgan.

2.6 It is the Audit commission's view which seems to have been most influential in determining the recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales. The principal issue locally if there was to be a change was whether Conwy should be included within Gwynedd or Clwyd. The Audit Commission recommended Conwy's inclusion in Clwyd because of the coterminosity with Health Trust boundaries. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales in its assessment adopted this reasoning.

2.7 In the light of the Commission's recommendations, members need to evaluate the proposed change. The following points are relevant:

- The change is of no significance for Denbighshire County Council and its responsibilities.

- The proposed changes extend the area westwards for the functions of the Lord Lieutenants and High Sheriff for Clwyd
- The principal impact is on parliamentary constituencies. Constituencies are generally meant to be contained within preserved counties. Therefore the Commission's proposals are likely to lead to a redrawing of Parliamentary (and Assembly) constituencies in North Wales which might result in a reduction in the number of seats.

2.8 The choice is whether to stand by our earlier response, which argued for no change, or to support the inclusion of the whole of Conwy in one or other of the preserved counties. If there is to be change, Conwy seems to have stronger links with Denbighshire (such as the NHS Trust, the youth offending team and the central division of North Wales Police) than with Gwynedd. This would support the commission's recommendation

2.9 The main effect of any change would be political, in terms of the boundaries of Parliamentary and Assembly seats and the impact on the political make up of them, which we cannot predict.

2.10 On balance, given the Commission is recommending change, I believe that we should indicate that, while our inclination is in favour of no change, we would support the proposal to include Conwy in the preserved county of Clwyd as making more sense than its inclusion in the preserved county of Gwynedd.

3 COST

3.1 There are no costs associated with this report

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

4.1 There are no cost implications arising from the recommendation and accordingly there is no adverse impact on Denbighshire's budgetary position and the Council's Corporate Objective to deliver balances of £1.0m by the end of the current financial year.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

5.1 None for this report. We consulted AMs and MPs and Community Councils earlier this year: the 3 responses received suggested that there should be no change.

6 IMPACT ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

6.1 There are no impacts.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Our response to the commission should say that, while our inclination is in favour of no change, we would support the proposal to include Conwy in the preserved County of Clwyd as making more sense than its inclusion in the preserved county of Gwynedd.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR A E OWENS, LEAD MEMBER FOR FINANCE

DATE: 10 September 2002

SUBJECT: ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT 2001/02

1 DECISION SOUGHT

Denbighshire County Council's Treasury Policy Statement for 2001/02 states that Cabinet will receive an annual report on the performance of the treasury management function. This report covers the previous expectations of the economic climate, the resultant strategy agreed, actual interest rate performance and the actions undertaken by the Council in response.

In accordance with the Policy, Cabinet is asked to approve this report on treasury activities undertaken in 2001/2002, which is attached as an appendix.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Denbighshire County Council's Treasury Policy Statement for 2001/02 was approved by Council on 27th March 2001. The terms of the Policy Statement require an annual report to be produced before 30th September following the financial year end.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

None.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

It is a requirement under the terms of Denbighshire County Council's Treasury Policy Statement for members to be advised of the Treasury activities undertaken in the preceding financial year.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Not applicable

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

None

7 RECOMMENDATION

Cabinet is asked to approve the Annual Treasury Report for 2001/02.



DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT
2001/02

Alan Evans
Corporate Director - Resources

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Executive Summary

The Council's Treasury Policy Statement requires the reporting to Cabinet of the results of the previous year's treasury management activities. In making this report, which includes the expectations held and agreed strategy, reference to the general economic climate and developments in market wide interest rates is required, to provide the context within which the Authority's actions took place.

In advance of the start of the financial year 2001/02, senior officers anticipated that short-term interest rates would continue to be more expensive than long term, fixed rate borrowing, however this differential was expected to narrow over time, with the interest rate market remaining relatively calm and movements occurring in narrower bands than in previous years. With these expectations providing a variety of possible options, the Council agreed that caution should be adopted and that the Corporate Director of Resources should monitor the interest rate market, adopting a pragmatic approach to changing circumstances.

This flexible approach and the delegated authority afforded senior officers proved invaluable in dealing with the economic reactions to a year of significant unforeseeable world events, reaching their zenith with the tragic attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The 20-25 year lower quota PWLB fixed interest rate varied within quite a narrow band until September 11, generally staying between 5.0 and 5.25%. (The PWLB or Public Works Loan Board is a quasi-governmental organisation offering loans specifically to local authorities.) The subsequent dire economic news from the US during the Autumn depressed equity markets and caused a wholesale move of investments to bonds, resulting in lower and higher quota 20-25 year PWLB rates hitting 4.5%. Following a partial recovery of the US equity market late in 2001, the 20-25 year lower quota PWLB rate rose back into the 5.0 - 5.25% band again for most of quarter 1 in 2002.

The year also saw dramatic movements in shorter-term interest rates, with the base rate starting the year at 5.75% and ending it at 4%. The reductions started in April (to 5.5%) and May (5.25%), in reaction to concerns about future inflation rate targets. This was followed by repeated cuts after September 11, culminating in the base rate reaching 4.0% in November, as central banks around the world cut rates aggressively in order to stimulate growth, in reaction to the different world economic scenario presented after the attack on the World Trade Center. Even the surge in growth in the US economy in the Spring of 2002 was widely viewed as a temporary factor and so base rates were left unchanged at 4% in the first quarter of 2002.

With these global changes and the latest economic forecasts in mind, alongside more local factors, the Council's total debt was reduced from £119.5m to £111.2m and investments from £18.8m to £14.1m. This strategy of repaying debt was put in place to maintain external borrowing at the same level as the credit ceiling, to reduce unapplied Provision for Credit Liabilities and to limit the credit worthiness risk associated with the maintenance of both investments and debt. This restructuring also reduced the annualised debt interest costs payable by £453k per annum and generated cash discounts of £578k, providing £485k to assist the Authority in meeting its overall budgetary targets for the year.

Both while this restructuring occurred and throughout the year 2001/02, the Council's treasury functions successfully maintained compliance with the limits and principals of financial control set within the Authority's Treasury Policy and Strategy.

I. Introduction and Background

Treasury management in local government was regulated during 2001/02 by the 1996 revision of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Local Authorities. This Council has adopted the 1996 Revised Code and fully complies with its requirements. The primary requirement of the Code is the formulation and agreement by full Council of a Treasury Policy Statement which sets out Council, Cabinet and Chief Financial Officer responsibilities, and delegation and reporting arrangements. This Treasury Policy Statement was approved by Council on 27th March 2001.

A new revision of the Code was published in December 2001 which has a recommended implementation date of 1 April 2002 - although CIPFA had not published the final guidance notes by that date. Denbighshire County Council adopted the revised Code in March 2002, in time for the financial year 2002/03.

A requirement of the Council's Treasury Policy Statement is the reporting to Cabinet of both the expected treasury activity for the forthcoming financial year (the annual treasury strategy statement) and subsequently the results of the Council's treasury management activities in that year (this annual treasury report). Treasury management in this context is defined as:

“The management of the local Authority's cash flows, its borrowings and its investments, the management of the associated risks, and the pursuit of the optimum performance or return consistent with those risks”.

This annual report covers:

- the Council's current treasury position;
- performance measurement;
- the borrowing strategy for 2001/02;
- the borrowing outturn for 2001/02;
- compliance with treasury limits;
- compliance with the Treasury Management Policy Statement;
- compliance with Treasury Management Practices;
- investments strategy for 2001/02;
- investments outturn for 2001/02;
- debt rescheduling;
- other issues.

II. Current Portfolio Position

The Council's debt position at the beginning and end of year was as follows:

		31 March 2001		31st March 2002	
		Principal	Rate	Principal	Rate
Fixed Rate Funding	PWLB	£117.8m		£109.8m	
	Market	£ 0.1m		£ 0.1m	
	Via Flintshire	£ 0.1m		£ 0.0m	
Variable Rate Deferred Purchase Agreement (Pavilion Theatre, Rhyl) £ 1.5m			£ 1.3m		
Total Debt		£119.5m	6.8%	£111.2m	6.9%
Investments	- managed in-house	£ 18.8m	5.5%	£ 14.1m	3.7%

The interest rates shown represent average rates for the year under examination.

III. Performance Measurement

One of the key changes in the revision of the Code in 1996 was the formal introduction of performance measurement relating to investments, debt and capital financing activities. Whilst investment performance criteria have been well developed and universally accepted, debt performance indicators continue to be a more problematic area, with the traditional average portfolio rate of interest acting as the main guide (as incorporated in the table in section 1).

The strategy of repaying debt which was exercised during the year, whilst increasing the average rate by 0.1%, has reduced the annualised debt interest costs payable by £453k per annum. The Authority also received a cash discount of £578k as part of the debt restructuring, of which £485k was credited to the Council Fund.

The use of benchmarks for investments are less helpful for Denbighshire County Council than for local authorities with larger cash balances. With only small cash balances having been held to fulfill cash flow requirements, the Authority has only been able to put money out for short periods and often at weaker rates than larger, cash-rich authorities.

IV. The Strategy for 2001/02

Our treasury strategy for 2001/02 was based on a view of the UK economy being weighed down at the start of the year, with cash flow considerations likely to depress private investment growth. World growth was expected to moderate following the downturn in America. This prompted the

Federal Reserve to take repeated action to aggressively cut interest rates during 2001. UK growth was therefore expected to be close to the trend rate of 2.5%, with the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) needing to see a moderation in household consumption, in order to offset the programmed growth in public spending. The MPC reduced the base rate from 6.0% in January 2001 to 5.5% in April. Base rate was then expected to remain unchanged for the rest of the year although a further cut to 5.25% was a possibility.

Inflationary pressures were weak and RPIX (headline inflation less mortgage interest rates) was expected to average about 1.7 - 1.8% over the 12-month period, with occasional dips under 1.5% possible. The labour market was a cause for concern, due to the very low level of unemployment, although actual wage inflation was moderate. The housing market was showing growing strength while the manufacturing sector started the year in positive territory, although the growth rate was minimal. However, consumer demand, confidence and borrowing were all robust. This was therefore a very different situation from that in the US and did not require further cuts in base rate in order to stimulate demand.

The effect on interest rates for the UK was therefore expected to be as follows:

Shorter-term interest rates - The “average” City view anticipated that the stronger outlook for growth for the UK economy than the US would mean that the base rate would probably not need to fall below 5.5% throughout the year, although there was some chance that it could fall to 5.25%.

Longer-term interest rates - The view on longer-term fixed interest rates was broadly neutral, with PWLB rates remaining around 5.0%.

The agreed strategy put to Council, based upon the above forecast, provided for a number of options. It was anticipated that short-term rates would continue to be more expensive throughout 2001/02 than long fixed rate borrowing. However the differential was expected to narrow over time, with shorter-term rates falling while longer term rates were expected to rise. It was anticipated that the interest rate market would remain relatively calm with interest rate movements occurring within narrower bands than compared to previous years. This expectation provided a variety of options:

- That the expectation of falling base rates in the future would be so strong that the drawing of cheaper, longer term funding in the year might entail longer term costs and the Council’s view would have been that maintaining a short term position would lead to a cheaper, low risk, long term portfolio;
- That the risks intrinsic in the shorter term variable rates would be such, when compared to historically low long term funding, that the Council would have maintained a stable, longer term portfolio by drawing longer term fixed rate funding.

Against this background, it was decided that caution should be adopted within the 2001/02 treasury operations. The Corporate Director of Resources would monitor the interest rate market and adopt

a pragmatic approach to any changing circumstances, reporting any decisions to Cabinet at the next available opportunity.

V. Outturn for 2001/02

01/04/01 – 30/06/01

Monetary easing, due to global concerns, was the key theme of this quarter. The economic slowdown spread from the USA to Europe and Japan, prompting banks to cut interest rates. The MPC cut interest rates by 0.25% in both April and May as a response to international risks and the need to stop RPIX (retail price index excluding mortgages) undershooting its target 2 years ahead. A stream of poor US corporate profit news led to the US Federal Reserve cutting rates by 0.5% in April and another 0.5% in May. Towards the end of the quarter, more upbeat corporate comment, and some brighter confidence surveys, suggested that business activity there could be stabilising and that the US would avoid a recession. Fears of global recession therefore appeared to be overdone and financial markets became more sensitive to inflation concerns due to jumps in oil and seasonal food prices. The markets therefore started factoring in an end to the monetary easing cycle. Imbalances in the UK economy persisted: manufacturing remained weak in line with global trends, but the consumer and services sectors remained buoyant.

Despite deteriorating economic growth, long fixed interest rates rose due to growing inflation fears. However, the 20-25 lower quota PWLB rate stayed in the 5.0 – 5.25% band (higher quota 5.25 – 5.50%) for most of the quarter. The money markets started the quarter anticipating further reductions in base rates and several forecasters predicted rates below 5.00%. As such, the curve was negative, with the best returns offered by keeping funds short. One month money was 5.56%, falling to 5.125% for 12 month deposits. Over the course of the quarter expectations changed and the question shifted to ‘when would base rate be raised?’ As a result, the yield curve at the end of the quarter was positive, with the 1 month investment rate at 5.13% and 1 year at 5.60%.

01/07/01 – 30/09/01

Monetary easing continued prior to the events of September 11 and investors continued to focus on whether the US economy would avoid recession and how much stimulus the authorities in other countries, including the UK, would need in order to counter the slowdown in the US. The terrorist action could not have come at a more critical time and a recession in the US therefore appeared unavoidable. The top priority of policymakers was to inject liquidity into markets, avert a financial meltdown, restore market and investor confidence and ensure that a temporary dislocation in the markets, and the very gloomy and nervous mood, did not exacerbate the slowdown in world growth. Central banks around the world cut rates after the attacks.

In the UK, the quarter had opened with the repo rate at 5.25%, long fixed interest rates (the yield on 30-year gilts) at 4.98% and 1-year investment rate at 5.6%. The market was not prepared for the reduction of base rate to 5.0% on 2 August and it began to harbour doubts about the wisdom of the MPC’s strategy in the light of perceived inflationary pressures. However, after September 11, inflation and oil price concerns were displaced by an expectation that powerful recessionary forces (commercial aviation traffic being the immediate visible casualty) would take oil and various other prices lower. US growth plunged in quarter 3 to -1.3% but ultimately this turned out to be the sole quarter of negative growth in 2001/02.

A change in gilt market sentiment took place early in the quarter. The generally gloomy outlook for corporate earnings left stock markets depressed. Announcements of job losses and rationalisation of resources increased, particularly in the direct aftermath of the September 11 attacks. Investors therefore sought the safety offered by government bonds, including UK gilts, so PWLB lower quota 20-25 year rate fell to 4.875 – 5.0% (higher quota 5.125%) during August. However the budgetary costs of slower growth and prolonged military action weighed heavily on the long end of the gilt market in late September so the lower quota PWLB rate rose back again to 5.125 – 5.25% (higher quota 5.25 – 5.375%) during September.

01/10/01 – 31/12/01

Despite weak external demand, UK growth was close to trend in 2001 as strong growth in consumer disposable income underpinned strong consumer spending supported by lower interest (mortgage) rates, increased levels of borrowing, a buoyant housing market and continued employment growth. RPIX inflation fell back below 2% in November; this helped the MPC to offset the effects of a deeper and more prolonged downturn in world activity, by cutting base rate by 0.75% to 4% (0.25% in October and a surprise 0.5% reduction in November). In the US, the continued slowdown led the Federal Reserve to cut rates on three occasions bringing the Federal Funds Rate down from 3% to 1.75%.

The gloom prevalent in the previous quarter continued to pervade the equity markets in October and early November after the release of chronically weak economic data. The US Treasury announced the cessation of further issues of 30 year bonds, adding to the generally positive sentiment for government bonds. At this stage of the quarter the markets in the UK were discounting even further cuts in base rate (with the one year investment rate falling to around 3.75%). Gilt bullishness (with yields low and prices high) peaked on 12 November. Then came the sell-off of gilts as investors took profits. This coincided with unexpectedly rapid progress in the war in Afghanistan and US economic data beginning to show the first glimmers of an upturn, which seemed to convince investors that the rate cutting cycle would end soon. Gilt prices plummeted and fixed interest rates rose sharply in the second half of the quarter. The 20 –25 lower and higher quota PWLB rates both ended the quarter by rising back to 5.0 – 5.125% from a floor of 4.5% in early November. The 1 year investment rate recovered to 4.2 to 4.3% during December with shorter rates around 3.9 – 3.96%.

01/01/02 – 31/03/02

The markets soon decided that the next move in base rate would be upwards. The one year investment rate went over 4.5% by the middle of January, when inflation data led to an upward revision of inflation expectations from 1.7 – 2.0% to hovering around 2.5%, and sentiment turned “bearish”. House prices continued to rise very strongly while consumer borrowing showed a record increase in January. The end of January saw a shift in sentiment as the US recovery story gained ground and underpinned rising fixed interest rates and money market rates. Alan Greenspan, in testimony in early March, stated that ‘US expansion is well underway’. This caused yet another sell-off in bond and money markets and the one year investment rate rose to 4.8% (shorter rates remaining around 4.0%). Sir Edward George and David Clementi (Deputy Governor of the Bank of England), both went on record in saying that the market had over reacted. There was also some marked volatility in

equity and bond markets during the quarter as the bankruptcy of three major US companies, Enron, Global Crossing and Kmart, undermined investor confidence and renewed flights to quality (bonds) from equities, causing a temporary spike down in long fixed interest rates. Concerns also mounted during the quarter, in equity markets, over the value of telecommunications companies. Overall, bearishness prevailed and so long fixed interest rates rose during the quarter, with the 20-25 lower quota PWLB rate ending up around 5.25 - 5.375% (higher quota 5.50 – 5.625%).

The summary PWLB position for the year is demonstrated by the average PWLB interest rates for 2001/02 shown below: -

Lower quota 10 – 15 year	5.135%
Lower quota 20- 25 year	5.028%
Higher quota 10 – 15 year	5.342%
Higher quota 20 – 25 year	5.217%
One month GBR variable	4.600%

As highlighted in section 1 above, the average debt portfolio rate has moved over the course of the year from 6.8% to 6.9% as the total debt was reduced from £119.5m to £111.2m. No additional long-term debt was raised during the year, with short term borrowing only being used to facilitate the repayment of debt, £6.5m of long-term borrowing being redeemed prematurely in the last quarter of the year. In essence the approach during the year was to fund borrowing and the premature redemption of PWLB debt from surplus cash and maintain external debt at the same level as the credit ceiling. This reduced the annualised debt interest costs payable by £453k per annum and generated a cash discount of £578k, of which £485k was credited to the Council Fund.

VI. Compliance with Treasury Limits

During the financial year the Council operated within the treasury limits set out in the Council's Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Management Strategy for 2001/02.

VII. Compliance with Treasury Management Policy Statement

On Tuesday 26th March 2002, the Council approved the Treasury Policy Statement for 2002/03. This statement included the following formal Treasury Management Policy Statement:

Denbighshire County Council defines the policies and objectives of its treasury management activities as follows: -

1. Denbighshire County Council defines its treasury management activities as:

“The management of the Authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks”.

2. The Authority regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be

measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the Authority.

3. The Authority acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving best value in treasury management, and to employing suitable performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.”

While this statement was not in force for the year 2001/02, the Council acted in compliance with the principles defined in the statement throughout the financial year.

VIII. Compliance with Treasury Management Practices

The Treasury Policy Statement for 2002/03 approved by Council on Tuesday 26th March 2002 formally set out Treasury Management Practices in the following twelve areas:

- TMP 1 Treasury risk management
- TMP 2 Best value and performance measurement
- TMP 3 Decision-making and analysis
- TMP 4 Approved instruments, methods and techniques
- TMP 5 Organisation, clarity and segregation of responsibilities, and dealing arrangements
- TMP 6 Reporting requirements and management information arrangements
- TMP 7 Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements
- TMP 8 Cash and cash flow management
- TMP 9 Money laundering
- TMP 10 Staff training and qualifications
- TMP 11 Use of external service providers
- TMP 12 Corporate governance

While these practices were not formally in force for the year 2001/02, the Council acted in compliance with the principles of financial control defined in these practices throughout that financial year.

In particular, in the area of TMP 1 Treasury Risk Management, throughout 2001/02 the Council had in place adequate and suitable arrangements for the identification, management and control of treasury management risk, as follows:

[1] Liquidity risk management

In the financial year 2001/02, the Authority ensured it had adequate though not excessive cash resources, borrowing arrangements, overdraft and standby facilities to enable it at all times to have the level of funds available which were necessary for the achievement of its business and service objectives.

[2] Interest rate risk management

Throughout the financial year, the Authority managed its exposure to fluctuations in interest rates with a view to containing its net interest costs in accordance with the amounts provided in its budgetary arrangements.

[3] Exchange rate risk management

During the financial year 2001/02, the Authority managed its exposure to fluctuations in exchange rates so as to minimise any detrimental impact on its budgeted income and expenditure levels.

[4] Inflation risk management

The effects of varying levels of inflation, insofar as they could be identified as impacting directly on its treasury management activities, were controlled by the Authority as an integral part of its strategy for managing its overall exposure to inflation.

[5] Credit and counterparty risk management

The Authority regards a prime objective of its treasury management activities to be the security of the principal sums it invests. Accordingly, in the financial year 2001/02, the Council ensured that at all times its counterparty lists and limits reflected a prudent attitude towards organisations with whom funds could be deposited, and limited its investment activities to the instruments, methods and techniques referred to in the Treasury Policy Statement for 2001/02 and the criteria set out in Appendix C of that document.

[6] Refinancing risk management

Throughout the course of the financial year 2001/02, Denbighshire County Council ensured that its borrowing, private financing and partnership arrangements were negotiated, structured and documented, and the maturity profile of the monies so raised were managed with a view to obtaining offer terms for renewal or refinancing, if required, which were competitive and as favourable to the organisation as could reasonably be achieved in the light of market conditions prevailing at the time.

[7] Legal and regulatory risk management

In the financial year 2001/02, Denbighshire County Council ensured that all of its treasury management activities complied with its statutory powers and regulatory requirements. In framing its credit and counterparty policy, the Council ensured that there was evidence of counterparties' powers, authority and compliance in respect of the transactions they effected with the organisation, particularly with regard to their duty of care and the fees charged.

[8] Fraud, error and corruption, and contingency management

The Authority has ensured that it has identified the circumstances which may expose it to the risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption or other eventualities in its treasury management dealings. Accordingly, in the financial year 2001/02, it employed suitable systems and procedures, and maintained effective contingency management arrangements, to guard against such loss.

[9] Market risk management

Throughout the financial year 2001/02, Denbighshire County Council sought to ensure that its stated treasury management policies and objectives were not be compromised by adverse market fluctuations in the value of the principal sums it invested, and accordingly protected itself from the effects of such fluctuations.

IX. Investment Strategy for 2001/02

The Authority manages its investments in-house and invests within the institutions listed in the Authority's approved lending list. The Authority is able to invest for a range of periods from overnight to 364 days, dependent on the Authority's cash flows and the interest rates on offer, although in practice during 2001/02, cash was only invested short term.

The planned repayment of borrowing towards the end of the year, coupled with the Authority's approach to debt as detailed at the end of section 4 above, determined the Authority's investment strategy options for much of the year. In the first 7 weeks of the financial year, when market expectations were for the base rate to fall to 5.0% or below, longer dated maturities (9-12 months) offered poor value and shorter maturities appeared beneficial. In June and July when market expectations had suggested the weighting of investments to longer dated maturities, as inflation expectations caused concern, operational cash flow management issues prevailed at Denbighshire and the strategy of concentrating investments at the short end of the market was maintained. After the cut in base rate on 2nd August the base rate was again expected to fall, which suggested investments should be weighted to the shorter end in order to benefit from the compounding of interest. This strategy prevailed through to mid January 2002 when although long rates offered a substantial improvement over short term rates, anticipated premature PWLB loan redemptions enhanced the attractiveness of the short end of the investment market, as a means of containing any short term borrowing costs which might be associated with debt restructuring.

Detailed below is the result of the investment strategy undertaken by the Council.

	Average Investment Balance	Average Deal Size	Average Term	Average Rate of Return	Benchmark Return *
Internally Managed	£22.5m	£2.0m	53 days	4.68%	4.38%

* - The benchmark for internally managed funds is the average 7-day LIBID (London Interbank Bid) rate (uncompounded) sourced from the Financial Times.

The difference between the average investment balance shown above and the end of year position, shown in section 2, arises both from the use of investments to fund the repayment of debt and from the cyclical nature of the cash flow profile.

No institutions in which investments were made showed any difficulty in repaying investments and interest in full during the year.

X. Debt Rescheduling

It was anticipated that opportunities for rescheduling exercises might occur at any time during the year. The events of September 11 depressed interest rates and so made rescheduling unattractive during quarter 3 as PWLB discount rates fell sharply.

The Authority adopted a risk-spreading approach to the execution of debt restructuring in the latter part of 2001/02, repaying PWLB loans of £2.5m and £4m in January and March respectively, both maintaining external debt at the same level as the credit ceiling, as discussed in section 5 above, and generating repayment discounts of £578k, of which £485k was available to assist the Council in meeting its overall budgetary targets for the year. These actions reduced unapplied Provision for Credit Liabilities and in turn reduced creditworthiness risk relating to the maintenance of both investments and debt.

On each occasion, Cabinet was informed of the debt rescheduling undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

XI. Other Issues

Denbighshire County Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2001/02 referred to the potential for a housing transfer in the future and the need for a number of complex and critical decisions to be considered and planned for, in advance of any physical cash transaction taking place. Such a transfer was deemed to impact on both the drawing of capital finance and the repayment of debt, assuming debt were to be repaid on transfer. During the year 2001/02, progress towards the transfer remained uncertain and the Authority continued with a longer term portfolio strategy, to prevent exposure in the event of the transfer not proceeding.

REPORT TO CABINET

AGENDA ITEM NO: 16 [CABINET 2002 - 167]

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor P A Dobb, Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing

DATE: 10 September 2002

SUBJECT: Local Authority representation on the Local Health Board

1 DECISION SOUGHT

In principle agreement is sought as to Denbighshire's 4 nominees to the Local Health Board.

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

2.1 It is expected that local authorities will have four representatives on the new Local Health Board, to become formally established in the Autumn, and this report seeks in principle agreement on how these positions would be filled. The local authority currently has two officer representatives on the Local Health **Group** Board- the Chief Housing Officer and the Corporate Director of Personal Services. The latter is also a member of the LHG Executive.

2.2 Background information as to the role of Local Health Boards (LHBs) in the new NHS Wales is provided at Annex I.

2.3 This paper complements that of the development of a Strategic Partnership Board for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing, and the elected member nominations agreed at Cabinet on July 30 2002.

2.4 While LHBs are expected to be formally established in the Autumn of 2002 (probably October), and be up and running by April 2003, considerable development work is still required. LHB Chairs have been appointed (Meirion Hughes in Denbighshire) but Chief Executive appointments have not yet been made.

2.5 Definitive guidance has not yet been produced as to the membership of LHBs and Executives. There will be a process of public advertising for some Board members, but this has not yet taken place.

2.6 Current draft guidance provides for

a) four local authority representatives on the Board, one of whom must be the Senior Social Services Manager, who would also be on the Executive. One must be an elected member. The other two places could be for members or officers. (The place of the Senior Social Services Manager on the Executive is the subject of continuing debate because of the potential accountability and conflict of interest issues posed. An alternative model of involvement as a co-opted member has been floated.)

b) two voluntary sector representatives, of whom one would be a carer

c) a public representative (who could also be an elected member)

ch) representatives from a wide range of health professional groups- including GPs

2.7 The Executive would be made up of the Chair, Director of Finance of the Local Health Board, Director of Nursing, a Specialist in Public Health, a Medical Director and possibly the Senior Social Services Manager (but see 2.5 above).

2.8 There is continuing debate about the mechanism by which the local authority representation is to be made. The crux is whether, as LHBs are sovereign bodies, there can be nominations by another body onto its Board. Legal advice has been sought. It is not yet clear, either, what the individual accountability will be of a member of the Board. Clearly, there could be a tension between being a corporate member of the Board and accountability to the County Council. Members will recall that under the new Code of Conduct a Member appointed by the Council to an outside body is deemed to have a

personal interest. The consequence of that is that under the Code of Conduct the Member may speak on matters relating to the outside body but must not vote on the matter.

2.9 Despite the uncertainties, it is likely that NHS Wales will seek to have shadow arrangements in place during the Autumn, and it will be important for the local authority to be playing a full part from the outset, although there may remain some issues to be ironed out during the shadow period in terms of role, function and accountability.

2.10 It is felt important to have a balance of local authority officer and member skills and perspectives represented on the Board. It is therefore recommended that 2 Members and 2 Officers be nominated, as set out in 7a) below.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific cost implications arising from this report

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There are no cost implications arising from the recommendation and accordingly there is no adverse impact on Denbighshire's budgetary position and the Council's Corporate Objective to deliver balances of £1.0m by the end of the current financial year.

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

Lead Member, Health and Wellbeing)	who are in agreement with the
Chair, Personal Services Scrutiny Committee)	recommendation, subject to final
Corporate Executive Team)	guidance from the Assembly.

The County Clerk's comments are reflected in 2.8 above.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

The development of new structural arrangements within NHS Wales, coterminous with local authorities, the development of a stronger partnership culture with local government, and the strengthening of democratic accountability for health services, represent significant opportunities for the local authority to develop its community leadership role with a major public service. Particular opportunities also exist to improve planning and services across the broad front of health and wellbeing to benefit the people of Denbighshire.

7 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended

a) that subject to final guidance from the Assembly, Cabinet agree in principle its 4 nominees to the Denbighshire Local Health Board, as the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing, the Chair of Personal Services Scrutiny, the Corporate Director of Personal Services and the Corporate Director (Environment).

b) that the views of Personal Services Scrutiny Committee on the local authority representation on the LHB Board be sought while final guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government is awaited.

The Basis for Organisational Change

1. The NHS Wales Plan, Improving Health in Wales (IHIW), sets out a new vision for the NHS in Wales and a new vision for the Health, Social Care and Well-being of the population of Wales. It provides the context for organisational reform.
2. The overarching aim of Improving Health in Wales is to deliver tangible improvements in the health and well-being of the population.
3. The new NHS structures have been established by strengthening both the role of the Assembly and establishing statutory Local Health Boards (LHBs) which meet the following principles:
 - Simpler for patients to understand;
 - Accountable for the actions it takes and the service it delivers;
 - Stronger democratic voice in the way it is governed.
4. LHBs and local authorities will jointly formulate and implement a Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy for their area (see previous report to Cabinet - July 2002). This will be governed by National Assembly regulations and guidance. LHBs and Local Authorities will report to their local communities and the Welsh Assembly Government on the successful implementation of the local Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy.

Local Health Boards

5. LHBs are new organisations that will be established as statutory bodies from April 2003. There will be 22 LHBs, each of which will be coterminous with its associated unitary authority. LHBs will be established with their own boards and dedicated management teams. The main roles to be fulfilled by LHBs will be:
 - **Corporate and Clinical Governance** - As statutory bodies LHBs will have powers, duties and obligations. Management arrangements will be put in place to meet the requirements and standards of regularity and probity in public bodies and offer demonstrable value for money and clinical standards.
 - **Securing and Providing Primary & Community Health Care Services** - LHBs will be charged with the development of primary care. LHBs will work closely with Trust and other bodies to develop community and intermediate services. LHBs will be expected to:
 - Commission primary & community care services to minimum standards.
 - Secure continuous improvement.
 - Further develop Primary Care in line with the Primary Care Strategy.
 - Take a strategic approach to the development of the primary care workforce and estate.
 - Enhance their role as providers through the development of community and intermediate care services.
 - **Securing Secondary Care Services** - LHBs will lead the development of the Service and Financial Framework (SAFF) across health communities in conjunction with local NHS Trusts. The SAFF will flow from the Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy jointly formulated by the LHB and Local Authority. LHBs will:
 - Be the principal bodies to whom resources for the commissioning of health care are delegated. Funding will be delivered to LHBs for their registered population.
 - Engage with neighbouring LHB and Trusts to ensure cross boundary issues are being addressed, to ensure equity of access and resource allocation and to develop and manage Clinical Networks.
 - Establish partnership arrangements with local authorities and Trusts for the commissioning of secondary care.

- **Improving the health of communities** - LHBs will have a joint role with local authorities in improving population health and ensuring a joined up approach to addressing the determinants of health through the development of a Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy. They will:
 - Assess population health needs and the effectiveness of local health systems through locally acquired information and on the basis of that assessment jointly formulating and implementing a Health and Well-being Strategy.
 - Jointly develop the planning processes to support work with their associated Unitary Authority and other partners.
 - Work with partners and the public to deliver community health development.
 - Have formal responsibility for statutory Public Health functions including a role in the management of communicable disease.
 - Work closely with Trusts who have a role and duty to contribute to the health of the local population through the provision of occupational health services to their employees, playing a key role in Health Promotion and having responsibility for the environment.
 - **Partnership** - LHBs will be formally engaged in two distinct forms of local partnership:
 - Jointly formulating and implementing a Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy with the Local Authority and in consultation with other parties.
 - Putting in place effective commissioning arrangements for Local Authorities and Trusts, with the encouragement and facilitation of the Regional Office.
 - **Public Engagement** - The shared duty to develop and implement a Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy will involve each LHB, working with its Local Authority and other partners, to engage the public and other bodies in planning and monitoring the provision and quality of services.
 - **Provision of services** - LHBs will become increasingly involved in the direct provision of primary care services. The provider role of LHBs could extend further with the development of pathfinder projects to take forward the transfer of the management of community services from Trusts to LHBs.
6. In the short-term, LHBs will be supported by a Business Services Centre managed by Powys Local Health Board. The main services to be included within this arrangement are:
- Financial Services
 - Contractor Services
 - Human Resources
 - Management Information and Computer Technology
 - Estates Support
 - Procurement.

Report To Cabinet
Report By: Leader
Date 10 September 2002
Subject Police Authority Membership

1. Decision sought

1.1 To appoint 2 Members to a Joint Committee which will appoint Members to the North Wales Police Authority for 2003/04.

2. Reason for Decision

- 2.1 The term of office of the Council representatives on the North Wales Police Authority is due to come to an end in 2003. Normally, members serve for 4 years. Due to the National Assembly's decision to defer County Council elections until 2004, there is a need to make appointments for a further period of one year from June 2003 to June 2004 with appointments being made again in 2004 to allow the periods of office to be synchronised.
- 2.2 The 9 local authority members of the Police Authority are appointed by a joint committee comprising Councillors from each of the 6 unitary authorities which make up the police authority area. (schedule 2 para 2 (2) Police Act 1996) The number serving on a Joint Committee is for determination by the authorities concerned. (Schedule 2, para 3, Police Act 1996) The recommendation of this paper is that there should be two representatives from each authority bringing the total to 12.
- 2.3 While formal responsibility of appointment to the Police Authority rests with the Joint Committee, the function may be delegated by the Committee to the Chief Executive of the convening authority or the Clerk to the Police Authority. The Joint Committee's role would then be to determine the formula for Membership of the Authority with the authorities then requested to submit nominations against their allotted number. However this practice may not be followed and all appointments may be made directly by the Committee itself.
- 2.4 The Joint Committee which met in 1999 to determine the formula for council membership agreed that the 9 local authority members should be based on political balance and population. This led to:

Political Balance

Labour	3
Lib Dem	1
Plaid Cymru	2
Independents	3

Seats allocation between Authorities based on population (i.e. the three largest authorities having 2 seats)

Flintshire	2	(Labour nominees)
Gwynedd	2	(Plaid nominees)
Conwy	1	(Liberal Democrat nominee)
Denbighshire	1	(independent nominee)
Wrexham	2	(1 Labour and 1 Independent nominee)
Anglesey	1	(Independent nominee)

- 2.5 It is our view that the principles underlying this distribution need to be revisited if not now, then certainly for the appointments made in 2004. We should not accept that the 3 largest authorities should automatically have 2 seats. A fairer system would be to allow the additional seats to be allocated to the smaller authorities periodically. Secondly, if the Committee leaves nominations in the hands of each authority, it should not specify the political groups they require nominations from. Authorities should be free to choose their representatives on whatever basis they make appointments to outside bodies. If members agree to this, then our representatives to the Joint Committee should be asked to argue for these changes.

NB. Political balance will have changed since 1999 and therefore this will need to be updated before the Committee makes any appointments..

- 2.6 Our opinion is that the joint committee function is not an executive function because it is a committee appointed under the Police Act of 1996 and is not a joint committee appointed under section 101 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972. Any council can, therefore, be appointed to this joint committee. On this basis I would recommend our representation should, in accordance with political balance, be 1 Independent and 1 Labour nomination. The two groups have been asked to provide names, subject to the Cabinet's agreement on this recommendation, and the names will be reported at the meeting on 10 September.

2.7 Points for consideration

- 2.7.1 There is no prohibition on members of the Joint Committee also being selected by the Committee for appointment to the Police Authority. Members however may feel that in the interest of removing possible conflicts of interest, because the post of Police Authority members is remunerated, it would be sensible not to appoint to the joint committee or any member who might be a candidate for appointment to the Police Authority.
- 2.7.2 Among other factors, under para 10 of Schedule 2 a person will be disqualified for Police Authority membership if they are aged 70 years or more. There is no such disqualification for the Joint Committee.

3. Cost Implications

- 3.1 Travel costs to the Joint Committee meetings.

4. Financial Controller Statement

- 4.1 The costs arising from the recommendations in this report will be met from within existing budget provisions and accordingly there is no adverse impact on the Council's Corporate Objective to deliver balances of £1.0m by the end of the current financial year.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Councillor Elwyn Edwards (as Independent Group Leader and Lead Member for Safeguarding our Communities), Councillor Glyn Williams - responses to be added at the meeting

6. Impact on other Service Areas

- 6.1 There are no impact on services arising from this decision.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That Members
- (a) agree that the joint committee should consist of 2 members per council;
 - (b) appoint 1 Independent Member and 1 Labour Member to the Joint Committee.

REPORT TO CABINET

CABINET MEMBER: Councillor J A Smith, Lead Member for Social Inclusion

DATE: 10 September 2002

SUBJECT: Membership on NCH Cymru Denbighshire Young Carers Project Committee and Glan y Môr Project Committee

1 DECISION SOUGHT

For Cabinet to consider and agree a request from NCH Cymru for two representatives to represent the Authority on the

- a) Denbighshire Young Carers Project Committee, and
- b) Glan y Môr Project Committee

2 REASON FOR SEEKING DECISION

Following an external review of services and completion of negotiations between NCH Cymru and Denbighshire County Council's Social Services Department, it was agreed:-

- to reconvene the Glan y Mor Project Committee to take responsibility in monitoring and developing the project, and
- to establish a Project Committee to be responsible for the monitoring and development of services to Young Carers in Denbighshire.

Appendix 1 and 2 gives a brief overview of the services provided at the centre to assist those who may wish to be considered for membership.

3 COST IMPLICATIONS

No cost implications.

4 FINANCIAL CONTROLLER STATEMENT

There are no cost implications arising from the recommendation and accordingly there is no adverse impact on Denbighshire's budgetary position

5 CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

As Lead Member for Children and Families, I have been sent a copy of the letters requesting nominations and agree that Denbighshire County Council Social Services should be represented on the committees.

6 IMPLICATIONS ON OTHER POLICY AREAS INCLUDING CORPORATE

N/A

7 RECOMMENDATION

For Cabinet to approve the nominations to represent the Authority on NCH's Denbighshire Young Carers Project and Glan y Môr Project Committees as follows:

- a) Cllr John Smith to represent the authority on both Committees;
- b) Personal Services Scrutiny be asked to nominate a representative to each Committee.



DENBIGHSHIRE YOUNG CARERS

The main aim of the service is to promote awareness of the rights and needs of Young Carers and to provide direct support to the Young Carers in their community.

Young Carers are children and young people aged 5 - 18 years who's lives are restricted by the need to take responsibility for a person who is chronically ill, has a physical disability, suffering from a mental illness, is elderly or infirm, or is suffering from HIV/Aids or substance misuse.

The project provides individual support, issue groups such as bullying, activity groups, holiday outings and advocacy for Young Carers in Denbighshire. Individual support is provided across the county and groups operate from bases in Rhyl, Denbigh and Ruthin, with groups planned for Corwen and Llangollen in the near future.

Denbighshire Young Carers is resourced by Denbighshire County Council Social Services Department, North Wales Health Authority and NCH but also receives support through initiatives through the National Assembly for Wales:

CARERS SPECIAL GRANT

The Carers Special Grant initiative arising from the Carers Strategy

enables the funding of a variety of outings and activities throughout the year for those children and young people involved with Denbighshire Young Carers.

DENBIGHSHIRE YOUNG CARERS FORUM

The Carers Special Grant also assists the Denbighshire Young Carers Forum which as well as raising awareness of the issues that affect Young Carers enables them to voice their opinions about the services they receive and the way in which these can become more responsive to young carer's needs in the future.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

An initiative funded by the National Assembly for Wales' Children and Youth Partnership the project aims to raise awareness of the rights and needs of Young Carers in the county and address the issue of the social exclusion experienced as a result of their caring responsibilities.

The project also addresses the issue of the responsibility of professionals and works to improve links with the education and health services operating in Denbighshire.

For further information on the forum please contact :

CONTACT

Peter Hibbs, Project Manager
Jane Hillary, Project Co-ordinator
01745 331222/350555



GLAN Y MOR FAMILY CENTRE

This well established Family Centre in Rhyl provides a range of services to assist children and their families.

The Family Centre works closely with Denbighshire County Council's Social Services Department.

The Family Centre believes that wherever possible the best place for children is with their parents. We aim to work in partnership with parents towards this end, always bearing in mind the best interests of the child.

All parents - supported by friends and family, the wider community and statutory and voluntary services - need to be able to ensure that their children grow up adequately cared for and safe from harm, to promote their children's health and development and help them reach their potential.

Services currently provided include direct work with children in need, individual packages of family support and guidance on issues concerning the parenting role, groups and workshops looking at the management of children's behaviour, the importance of play, development and other issues raised by parents.

Children and families who attend the centre will be allocated their own key worker who will help the family to use the centre's resources to their best advantage.

Behaviour is looked at through "The Incredible Years" and "Handling Teenage Behaviour" groups that offer parents/carers alternative techniques in handling their children's more challenging behaviour, looks at interaction, communication and development and looks to prevent family breakdown, minimise risks and improve the quality of life.

There is a supported community based parent & toddler drop-in in west Rhyl held at Wellington Road Community Centre between 9.30 and 12.00 every Wednesday.

The Drop-In is run for the benefit of all families living in the local community, offers a place for children to play, parents to meet others and offer support and advice on the role and challenge of being a parent.

The Drop-In also provides access to WEA and Coleg Llandrillo courses and activities.

For further information on services please contact :

Peter Hibbs/Jane Young
Glan Y Mor Family Centre
☎ 01745 331222

Report To: Cabinet

Report By: Leader

Date: 10 September 2002

Subject: Various Appointments to Public Bodies

1. Decision sought

1. To agree the following appointments to outside bodies as listed below.

2. Reason for seeking decision

2.1 The following requests have been received for external appointment nominations.

2.1.1 South Denbighshire CAB's Management Committee

The Management Committee of South Denbighshire CAB has requested that Denbighshire in accordance to previous practice appoint two of its members to the Management Committee.

The current Denbighshire CC representatives are Cllrs Ken Hawkins and David Jones

This is not an appointment reserved to the executive, but is open to all Members.

Issues The persons appointed need to be aware that appointees are appointed to the post of trust to a charity. They will therefore have certain responsibilities as a trustee to consider the benefits to the charity of any given situation, which may produce a potential conflict of interest with their role of Councillors. South Denbighshire CAB are currently trying to clarify matters with the Charity Commission as the advice previously on the position of trustees was given prior to the new National Code of Conduct. The County Clerk will update at the meeting on any developments.

Recommendation: That two Members from the area of south Denbighshire on a politically balanced basis 1 Independent, 1 Labour are sought from the relevant political groups

2.1.2 WLGA Appointments - Nominations required by 16.09.2002

Court of Governors of the National Library of Wales. - 5 Vacancies for Wales

The latest 3 year term of the governors expires in November 2002. The WLGA has been invited to submit nominations from either Members or officers for the next 3 year term. The current representative, Cllr Meirick LI Davies, has indicated his willingness to be renominated.

Recommendation: That Councillor Meirick LI Davies be nominated

Rights of Way Review Committee. - 1 Vacancy

This committee meets in a regular basis mainly in the West Country. It brings together a wide range of parties; environmentalists, farmers and landowners as well as users. Candidates need to have a knowledge and understanding the rights of way legislation.

Recommendation: Philip Brelsford be nominated

Rural Housing Task Group

This is an LGA group set up to assist the development of a rural housing project, which includes the role of rural housing enables, housing needs assessment, the private rented sector, planning tool, brown field developments and the role of the market town. The group will meet three times during the period September 2002 to January 2003.

Recommendation: No nomination be submitted.

WLGA - Environment Agency National Forum

Cabinet of 9 April 2002 (Minute 1580) appointed Councillor D M Morris as the then Lead Member for the Environment to this forum. Following the changes to portfolios the appropriate representative would now be Councillor M A German.

Recommendation: That Councillor M A German, Lead Member for Sustainable Development and Environment be nominated.

2.1.3 Clwyd Leisure Limited - 1 Vacancy

Denbighshire County Council has two seats on Clwyd Leisure's board. Initial pressure of work arising from Councillor Glyn Williams' role as Chair of the Council resulted in a vacancy arising in respect of his seat on the board. In the event of no other Member wishing to be appointed to the vacancy Councillor Williams would be willing to take up the seat again. The Council's other representative is Councillor A E Fletcher Williams.

Recommendation: That a Labour nomination be sought.

2.1.4 Joint Management Committee - Canolfan Addysg Bro Cinmerch - 2 Vacancies

Denbighshire County Council has two seats for County Councillors nominated by the County on the Management Committee. One of the nominees is to be the local Councillor, Councillor P O Williams.

Recommendation: That two Councillors be nominated, one of whom shall be Councillor P O Williams.

3. Cost Implications

- 3.1 The costs are those associated with travel in respect of South Denbighshire CAB meetings and the Clwyd Leisure Limited. WLGA meeting travel costs are paid by the WLGA.

4. Financial Controller Statement

- 4.1 The expenses costs involved with these appointments will need to be contained within the Members travel expenses budget.

5. Consultation carried out.

- 5.1 A copy of the report has been sent to Group Leaders. Their views on appointments and potential nominations will be made at the meeting.

6. Impact on other policy areas

- 6.1 N/A

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That Members agree the following:
- i) 2 nominations from the area of South Denbighshire CAB: 1 Independent and 1 Labour
 - ii) Councillor M LI Davies be nominated for the Court of Governors of the National Library of Wales
 - iii) Philip Brelsford to be nominated for the Rights of Way Review Committee
 - iv) Rural Housing Task Group - no nomination to be submitted

- v) Councillor M A German be nominated
- iv) 1 Labour nomination for Clwyd Leisure Limited
- v) Joint Management Committee, Canolfan Addyst Bro Cinmerch - Councillor P O Williams and 1 other Member be nominated