

**Agenda item:**

**Report to:** Performance Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**Lead Member/Officer:** Lead Member for Education

**Report Author:** 14-19 Coordinator

**Title:** Transforming Post 16 Education

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**1. What is the report about?**

1.1 The report is an update on progress in Transforming Post 16 Education in Denbighshire, focusing particularly on the Dyffryn Clwyd Partnership after its first full cycle of operation. Progress in Prestatyn/Rhyl 6<sup>th</sup> & the Dee Valley can be found in Appendix 3.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1 To inform the committee of the impact of this on schools and young people in Denbighshire in terms of value for money and educational outcomes.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1 That Members review the outcomes to date and assess the costs, benefits, value for money and risks of the Transformation Partnerships.

**4. Report detail**

4.1 The impact of the Partnerships, the improved offer of appropriate progressive courses at Level 3 in all of our schools, and of the overall performance of Denbighshire pupils in terms of achieving the Level 2 Threshold and Level 2 Threshold plus Welsh or English plus Mathematics has been marked. Denbighshire's participation rate (the % of Year 11 pupils continuing in the Sixth Form or at FE college) rose to 89.9% and was second only to Monmouth (by 0.5%) in Wales.

- **Dyffryn Clwyd Post 16 Partnership**

We have now reached the end of the first full cycle of the collaborative offer with the first set of Level 3 (mainly A level) results.

Those who completed Year 13 this year were offered 58 Level 3 (AS/A level standard) courses that include 22 vocational and applied options giving Vale of Clwyd learners as wide a range of courses as anywhere in the country. The stay-on rate (the % of year 11 continuing into the Sixth Form) across the

four Dyffryn Clwyd schools rose from 56.8% in 2009 to 60.8% in 2010 and 63.2% in 2011.

96.2% of students in the Partnership achieved the Level 3 Threshold of at least 2 passes; 97.9% of grades were A\* to E passes; 78.2% A\* to C. It is very pleasing to see that students accessing courses other than at their own school have, on average, achieved at least as highly as in subjects at their own school; on average about a quarter of a grade – see Appendix 4.

The Joint Governance Committee, the responsible body for agreeing the local area curriculum, has met regularly to discuss the curriculum pattern, take up of options and to monitor progress. They have also discussed issues of sustainability.

The 14-19 Team support both the Joint Committee and the Dyffryn Clwyd Operational Group that deals with logistics and other such matters. The team managed the inter-partner payments mechanism on behalf of the schools and colleges, and payments were made on time in March 2012 as planned. This will enable the Joint Committee to address the issues of sustainability and value for money alongside the curriculum offer.

- all of the schools and colleges in Dyffryn Clwyd again offered a curriculum that exceeds the terms of the Learning and Skills Measure in 2011
- 258\* students accessed courses with learner providers other than their own base schools (\* as March 15<sup>th</sup> 2012)

The table\* below summarises the participation of Year 12 and Year 13 students in the partnership

	to Brynhyfryd	to Denbigh	to St Brigid's	to G. Clwyd	to Deeside C, Llysfasi	to C. Llandrillo, Dinbych
students from other bases	66	41	87	5	25	34

	Base schools Brynhyfryd	from Denbigh HS	from St Brigid's	from G. Clwyd
students going to Other providers	56	115	61	26

The schools paid for this provision with other learning providers from their base budgets; they received £175k into their core budgets for the courses they were accessing elsewhere, and paid out just under £140k (they retain 20% as agreed in the Partnership Memorandum of Understanding).

## The Costs and Benefits of Partnership Working

### COSTS

#### (i) Provision

Cost of provision across all school partners 2012 (from Tables A – D in Appendix 1)				
	2009--2010	2011-2012	Change	%
Number of students in Sixth Forms	545	619	74	13.6%
Average Teacher Costs (with on-costs)	£46.24k	£46.8k	£0.6k	1.3%
Total Cost of Sixth Form provision of Level 3 courses	£1.722m	£1.714m	(£8.3k)	-0.50%
Cost per learner	£3.6k	£2.77k	(£0.39k)	-12.4%

The average cost per learner for provision across the schools in the Partnership has been reduced by over 12% as a result of collaborative working, despite there being a small increase in the average teacher cost. Despite this, the 14% increase in student numbers and the significant widening of the subject offer (on average by 27 courses), the overall cost of provision has also been reduced.

Currently, two of the Dyffryn Clwyd schools spend all of their post 16 budgets on staffing their Sixth Form classes; two have small surpluses to defray some overheads and running costs of Sixth Form courses. The schools in partnership do not have the capacity to self fund the costs detailed in (ii) and (iii) below.

Schools pay for the bulk of this post 16 provision through their own core funding. However some provision is dependent upon grant funding such as various Welsh Medium courses such as Engineering and Spanish are funded totally from the 14-19 Learning Pathways annual grant.

#### (ii) Transport

Three buses in each direction now accommodate all year 12 and 13 students engaged in the partnership, with the first bus of each day being one that would be returning North or South to its base anyway. Although this has resulted in both time and financial savings, the costs are substantial and are currently met by the 14-19 Network through the Regional Network Development Plan Learning Pathways Grant.

Transport Costs in 2011-2012

£84.5k

#### (iii) Partnership support

This includes IT systems and licences for tracking attendance and progress, supporting individual learners on pathways, design and production of

prospectus and joint marketing.  
Partnership support costs 2011-2012: £44.5k

These costs too are met in full from the 14-19 Learning Pathways Grant

**Benefits** – these are outlined in Appendix 2

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

5.1 Supporting the raising and maintaining of levels of attainment, achievement and engagement that contribute to the priority of Modernising Education.

**6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1 A sustainable funding system has been established in both Dyffryn Clwyd and PR6 Partnerships that covers the bulk of course provision

6.2 Some Welsh Medium courses are funded in total from the 14-19 Grant currently £30,000)

6.3 Transport and partnership support costs:  
Dyffryn Clwyd £107,322 (projected 2012-2013)  
Prestatyn & Rhyl 6<sup>th</sup> £69,300 (projected 2012-2013)  
These are currently met by the 14-19 Network through the Learning Pathways Grant.

**7. What consultations have been carried out?**

7.1 All schools and colleges have been fully involved since March 2009 and the development of the Strategic Outline Case for Transformation. Joint Governance Committees report to Denbighshire Learning Partnership Board

**8. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

8.1 Schools do not have the resources to fund transport and partnership support costs from core funding.

8.2 The Minister has, to date, guaranteed 14-19 grant funding only to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014

**9. Power to make the Decision**

No decision requested.

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