



Young Flintshire Autumn Meeting Summary 20/10/2025

Morning Workshops

Introduction

Health Promoting Schools and Youth Service Officers welcomed the new Young Flintshire term members. The aims were shared along with the purpose and the model:

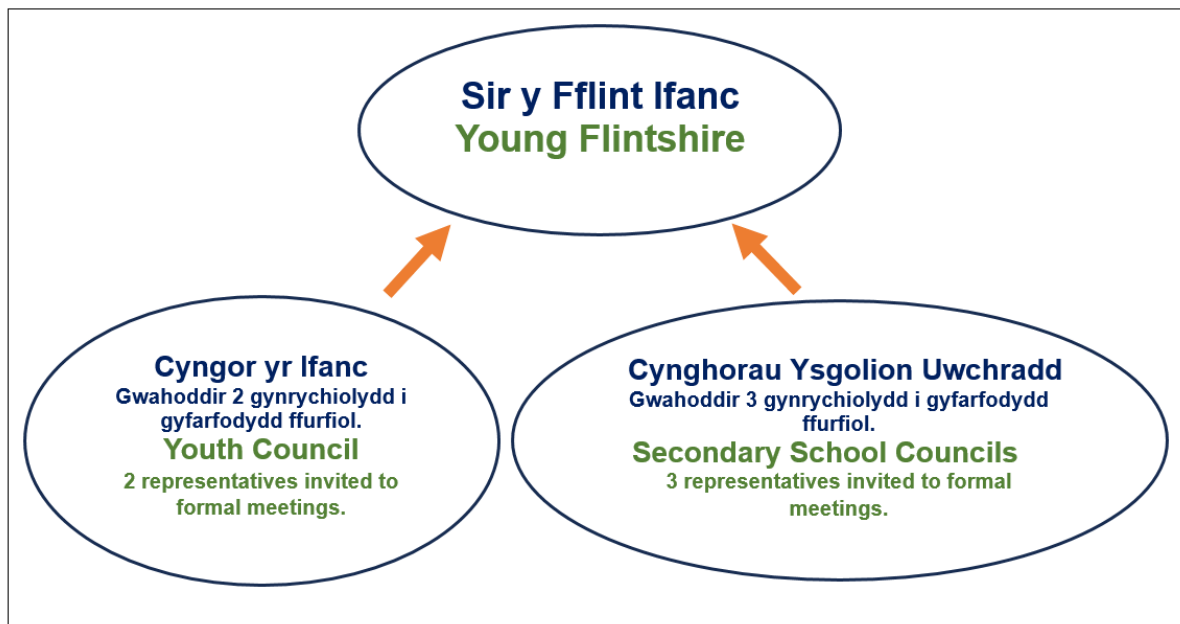
Aims

- Young people having their voice heard and speaking to decision makers.
- Opportunities for young people to feed into other working groups and projects running within the council.
- Awareness of how Flintshire County Council works and educating on democracy to young people and communities.

Purpose

UNCRC Article 12: Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Model



An overview of the Pilot that took place in Summer 2024 was shared and the projects carried out during 2024-2025 during the first full year. The projects were a result from the ‘3 Issues Survey’ and Flintshire County Council projects. The table below shows the overview for the work that took place.

Focus	You Said	We Did
1 Mental Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want everyone in our community to feel like they belong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan Workshop

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want student concerns understood and acted upon to get a good sense of belonging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North-East Wales Archives Workshop Wrexham Civic Mission Belonging Workshop Belonging Strategy
2 Creative spaces and opportunities across Flintshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We would like more creative opportunities in the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place Based Approach Workshop with Sports Development Team Theatre Clwyd Workshop on community provision
3 Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We want the environment to be cared for by everyone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Workshop

The '3 Issues Survey' was carried out again in Spring 2025. The top 3 priority issues identified are listed below and will be the focus for 2025-2026:

- Anti-Social Behaviour & Criminal activity
- Substance use
- Lack of shared spaces/entertainment

Ice Breaker

Attendees worked in groups to explore the articles of the UNCRC and identify which three articles linked to belonging the most. Groups were invited to share their outcomes.

Workshop – Flintshire Youth Justice Service & Flintshire Sorted

To start the journey of exploring the 3 priorities for 2025-2026 Flintshire Youth Justice and Flintshire Sorted led morning workshops responding to priorities one and two.

Flintshire Youth Justice Service

What we do...

- Support children 8-17 years old at risk of offending & anti-social behaviour
- Support victims of crime
- Statutory agency
- Multi-agency partnership with **police, health, probation** and local authority (**education, social services**)
- Child first approach

Flintshire Sorted

What we do..

- Support children and young adults from 8-25 years
- Link worker in schools and college (and sixth form Hub)
- Individual or group support
- Any drug / alcohol issue including vapes
- Work with police around anti-social behaviour.

Responding to drugs Ketamine

- National problem
- Developing a child support pathway
- 1:1 Support
- Training for professionals
- More support in schools
- More information for children, parents, carers and professionals

Responding to drugs

Delivered 1082 sessions in 13 secondary schools / colleges to 6726 children

323 Targeted interventions

81% of children meeting their goals

117 Professionals received training.

Serious Violence Duty

What you said..

- Survey of 376 children in North Wales
- 92 children from Flintshire
- 50% felt violence had increased
- 53% witnessed violence
- Issues linked to **Social Media, Peer Pressure** & need for **more police and facilities**

Responding to Violence

Serious Violence Duty

* Stop violence against women and girls

* Keep young people safe

* Work together to reduce serious violence

Youth Justice Plan & Youth Violence Action Plan

Youth Justice Plan & Youth Violence Action Plan

Improve training for staff

Improve how we collect and respond to data

Provide earlier intervention

Provide interventions for children to raise awareness

- Street Doctors
- Consent
- Little Blackbird
- Sidestep

Attendees then took part in various workshops showcasing the interventions that are being carried out with children to raise awareness. The workshops included:

Empire Fighting Chance / Sorted / Virtual Decisions / Little Blackbird / Sidestep Action for Children / Street Doctors

Workshop - Antisocial Behaviour Discussion

The Youth Justice Service have seen an increase in shoplifting and retail offences. From speaking to victims, this is having an impact on them, communities and businesses. A discussion around the following question took place to help inform future actions and plans:

What can be done to raise awareness with children and young people to help reduce us shoplifting in Flintshire?

Actions: Feedback from young people will support in actions carried out by the Youth Justice and Flintshire Sorted Teams. Feedback from young people on the interventions will help tailor the provision and source future inputs into the curriculum. A summary of the feedback will be collated and shared with members, council officers and schools to be cascaded.

Autumn Meeting

The Autumn Meeting took place after lunch and was chaired by a representative from Argoed High School and Hawarden High School. Notes from the meeting below:

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Minutes & Actions from last meeting

Feedback on national consultations taking place was collated to be sent to Welsh Government: Rights, respect, equality anti-bullying guidance / Disabled People's Rights Plan / Healthy Eating in Schools Proposals. Period Proud settings commitments have been completed by Graphics and awaiting to be printed and sent to settings. Belonging is an agenda item today. The 2024-2025 impact report is in its final stages. The model for this year has been confirmed in the calendar with one full day meeting each term at Tŷ Dewi Sant Ewloe, and a monthly workshop after school 4.30pm-6.30pm in Tŷ Dewi Sant Ewloe. These sessions will be hybrid and offer an online option. The calendar will be shared after this meeting.

3. 3 Issues Survey

This morning's workshops focusing on two of the three priorities identified from the 3 Issues survey, Anti-Social Behaviour & Criminal activity along with Substance use gathered a lot of feedback on the current interventions and support in place, suggesting further ideas. A summary for this work will be pulled together and shared soon. Further comments during the meeting included how peer pressure and relationships impacts on decision making and this is important to understand. The VR activity was very realistic and got you to think about decisions and consider emotions. Focusing on the third priority, Lack of shared spaces/entertainment the following points were made:

- Clubs and activities in school bring people together, so do clubs and activities outside school.
- A variety of spaces and clubs is important to capture people's interests, having activities to do with reduce the likelihood of unwanted behaviour.
- Not everyone knows about the youth clubs available to access
- Sporting activities in Leisure centres are known but not non-sporting activities. Last year Theatr Clwyd presented on the range of activities they run, and coordinate and communications was shared to schools and young people groups but not everyone got the messages.

Action: Theatr Clwyd activities promotion to be cascaded. A member of Young Flintshire is on the Advisory Board for Theatr Clwyd this year and will bring this topic up. Future session to explore Play Development Team work and Youth Service.

4. Belonging

During 2024-2025 Young Flintshire was involved in Belonging workshops exploring what Belonging means to young people, feeding into the development of the Flintshire Education & Youth Belonging Strategy. This is still underway and so far, during the Autumn term has involved focus groups of learners in Primary and Secondary School exploring Belonging. Key outcomes from the focus groups included the importance of safe spaces, friendships, relationships in school. In primary the important role of the class you are in with the same staff member to the move to secondary when the equivalent is your tutor group. This work will continue, and Young Flintshire are invited to support the development of the strategy. The conversation built on item three in the meeting with Belonging with members raising the importance of the extra-curricular activities in the school community, offering a range of activities to support everyone with their interests. Some groups are led by older students running peer support groups or activity groups. This is felt as a great model as it encourages a support network across year groups. Example model shared by Castell Alun where learners studying Welsh Baccalaureate create an activity group for Y7's once a week. An example group developed is a creative group for Y7 to take part in a range of creative activities from music, art and food practical.

Actions: Belonging to be a future focus workshop. Feedback to be shared with the Belonging Work Group. Members to explore peer-led clubs in their settings.

5. UNCRC & Participation

A reminder of the UNCRC, all members were aware of this. Article 12 focuses on Participation. The National Participation Standards supports this article. The National Participation Standards in Wales guide professionals working with children and youth to effectively develop meaningful youth participation. These standards ensure children and young people are involved in designing, delivering, and evaluating services. Flintshire County Council will be looking at Participation across 0-25 years developing a Participation Strategy in 2026 and would like Young Flintshire to lead on it. There is currently some training for young people, FCC staff and school staff being developed. It would be helpful for Young Flintshire to support the development of this training too.

Further information on the Welsh Government Children and young people's National Participation Standards can be viewed following the: [Participation Standards Poster](#)

Action: Participation training and strategy to be in a future workshop. Young Flintshire to continue to promote UNCRC and National Participation Standard in schools and young people groups.

6. Youth Council

All young people in Flintshire aged 11-25 can be a member of the Youth Council. The model is informal compared to Young Flintshire, meeting once a month in the evening. There are some vacancies so if a young person is interested, speak to Owen from Youth Services at the end of the meeting. There are also social media posts promoting this opportunity to.

Action: Members to promote this experience to peer's back in schools and youth groups.

7. Senydd Election 2026

With the upcoming Senedd election taking place in May 2026, a big promotion campaign is underway to encourage 16–17-year-olds to vote and be heard. Resources have been developed with the support of the Children's Commissioner for Wales and sent to schools. Councils also support by sending letters to young adults and promotion on social media. To cast your vote, you must **register to vote** by midnight on 20 April 2026. The link below goes to new resources published to help young people learn about the Senedd and how to vote, so they feel confident to participate in the 2026 Senedd election.

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/resources-senedd-election-2026>

Members felt strongly that this is a topic area that needs more focus on in school curriculum and promoted to young people. With their being minimum promotion in school young people are going to social media to learn and then are coming across parties and candidates they may then follow without understanding the bigger picture and goals. Young people are not voting because they do not know what is happening. Discussing what is happening in the news and the world regularly will help with this.

Actions: Youth Council to explore the communications to children and young people in Flintshire around this. Young Flintshire explore the coverage in school curriculum and pastoral time, along with communications through Flintshire County Council's social media. Politics & Democracy to be a focus in the first monthly workshop taking place in November.

8. Wales Climate Week

Wales Climate Week is taking place 3rd-7th November. To support this week the Environment Officers at Flintshire County Council are holding themed days for Flintshire schools and communities. There will be a live introduction each day for each theme. The resources and plan can be found at <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Climate-Change/Events.aspx> This builds on the Climate Strategy focus group work that took place 2024-2025. There are many opportunities for Council Officers to support school and community settings. This week will help to promote these offers. Members found this an exciting approach to a local curriculum.

Actions: Members to promote Wales Climate Week to school and local communities.

9. A Grand Week in Wales

A Grand Week in Wales" refers to a fundraising event organized by the charity Grand Week in Wales to support vulnerable people in Wales through various community challenges. It involves virtual challenges, linked to the 1000 miles circumference of Wales. Nanny Biscuit local to Flintshire runs the week and is keen for Flintshire to get fully involved in 2026, through communities and schools. The week in 2026 is 22nd-26th June. Young Flintshire feel that this is a great approach to supporting the community and would like to be involved directly, and encourage school and local communities to join in. A thousand claps across Flintshire is a strong idea to go forward with.

Action: Invite James Hunt, leading this project to speak about it further with Young Flintshire. Members to explore other ideas that can be shared at the meeting with James.

10. Communication

Young Flintshire has three meeting days across the term September 2025-August 2026. Aside from the meeting days Flintshire Council officers supporting Young Flintshire will be in contact about resources, opportunities, monthly workshops. The main communication platform for this is Email. Members would like to explore a Whatsapp community group going forward. The website has been launched for Young Flintshire, along with the final logo.

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Young-Flintshire/Home.aspx>

It would be good to look at having further platforms to cascade this information to children and young people such as Instagram and Facebook.

Actions: Health Promoting Schools Team will make progress with the Whatsapp request. Invite Flintshire Council Officer for Communications to meet with Young Flintshire.