



Young Flintshire

Summer Meeting Summary

23/06/2025

Morning Workshops

School Modernisation Workshop

Flintshire County Council has a responsibility to review and modernise all school provision, to make sure that we are providing the best possible opportunities for learners, so that they can achieve their full potential. Officers from the council School Modernisation Team presented on their roles and the two proposals currently out on consultation: Catholic Education Proposal and Proposal To Reorganise Saltney Ferry C.P And Saltney Wood Memorial C.P. Young Flintshire discussed the proposals and gave feed back to the Modernisation Team to inform the consultations.

Actions: Young Flintshire members to raise awareness on the consultations, signposting to the webpage where the community can have their say.

National Consultations

Members worked in three groups to explore the following open Welsh Government consultations including the young people versions:

1. **Rights, respect, equality anti-bullying guidance**
2. **Disabled People's Rights Plan**
3. **Healthy Eating in Schools Proposals**

This was in preparation for further discussion during the Summer Meeting.

Summer Meeting

The Summer Meeting was chaired by three young people from Castell Alun High School and the Welsh Youth Parliament for Delyn. Notes from the meeting below:

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Minutes & Actions from last meeting**

Members have signposted school and youth settings communities to the North Est Wales Archives. Some schools have made contact with Theatr Clwyd to promote creative activities available further. The Council Plan is to be released in July. Communication newsletter for young people about FCC to be launched September. This will include Flintshire News and Calls to Action, with an area for Young Flintshire Updates. Community Libraries are connecting with

schools to promote activities and support with ideas. Period Proud and 3 Issues are on today's agenda. Pride event took place at Flint High School and was very successful. Young Flintshire Logo is currently being finalised by the Graphics Team so it will print clearly.

3. Rights, respect, equality anti-bullying guidance

The Welsh Government has initiated a public consultation on its revised statutory anti-bullying guidance, Rights, Respect, Equality, aimed at maintained schools and educational settings across Wales. The following points will be submitted with the Local Authority response to the guidance as a result of Young Flintshire discussion:

- There is not enough information conveyed in the Young People Consultation for secondary school specifically on 'Supporting disabled learners' and 'Supporting LGBTQ+ learners.' Young people felt that there should be more information shared in the secondary school consultation document on the prevention and responding to bullying for these learners to help learners feel they are being supported and schools will support them.
- The text under 'Dealing with sexist bullying on Page 5 of the consultation document for secondary schools may need to be challenged when referencing 'groping' as this is a sexual assault. When looking through the 'Schools guidance document on bullying and harassment' there does not seem to be a definition for sexist bullying or groping referred to throughout. There is only a small reference to sexist bullying on Page 38 in this document.
- Anti bullying plans are welcomed. It would be good for schools to each have a staff lead and a learner working group.
- Young Flintshire agreed that the school's guidance document is user friendly. It was discussed how a consistent approach to reporting bullying and education around bullying with key messages would be helpful for all learners to have the same messages. The previous
- There are gaps in the curriculum for delivering consistent challenging bullying messages and education. A resource with consistent messaging that all schools can use would help to make challenging bullying clear. Understanding that everyone is unique and different is a positive thing. Awareness around protected characteristics is key, and curriculum resources with creative lessons is important for this.
- The importance of understanding and being informed of what happens after bullying is reported. Young people can feel vulnerable and understanding the situation can help build a feeling of safety and control .
- Support of providing gender neutral toilets I additional to sex separated toilets . It is a model school settings are used to along with the school communities.

Actions: Members to share the consultation link with their peers. This could be an activity that could be completed by school council, young people working groups also.

4. Disabled People's Rights Plan

The Welsh Government is committed to promoting the rights of disabled people, and to ensure disabled people are included and able to participate in all communities in Wales. We want to

make Wales an inclusive and accessible place for disabled people; a society where disabled people can participate without limits or restrictions and are empowered to lead fulfilling lives, where their individual and collective rights are recognised and upheld and where their contribution is recognised. The following points will be submitted with the Local Authority response to the guidance as a result of Young Flintshire discussion:

- The importance of understanding there are visible and non-visible disabilities. If this is taught in schools then everyone would grow up more informed and aware. All training suggested for organisations, employers, services needs to include this too as many people do not know about disability or understand it.
- Young Flintshire members had not heard of the Social Model of Disability and would like to see this included in the Health and Wellbeing curriculum in schools.
- This information resource has promoted 'Disabled People' s Employment Champions' which young people in Young Flintshire had not heard of before. This seems like a great method for supporting employers. Further research was carried out which led to the Disability Confident Employer scheme.

Actions: Members to share the consultation link with their peers. This could be an activity that could be completed by school council, young people working groups also. 3

5. Healthy Eating in Schools Proposals

Welsh Government wants to make sure that everyone gets healthy food, with school food being better and healthier. The Food, Drink and Nutritional Regulations and Guidance are going to be updated with a focus for secondaries:

- being clear about what food and drinks you are offered at school
- helping schools encourage healthy eating and drinking

The following points will be submitted with the Local Authority response to the guidance as a result of Young Flintshire discussion:

- With free breakfast and lunch as part of the offer in Primary settings, could this be extended to secondary settings too? It models good habits and promotes an essential start to the day and eating at lunch. The Primary and Secondary offer is very different. Where Y6 young people transition to secondary, so should the food offer too.
- Length of morning breaks and lunch time breaks can vary across schools. It would be good if it was consistent across all schools. This would ensure that we have time to eat and focus on our food.
- Grab and go foods are very popular and when lunch time breaks are short an easier option to go for although they can also be the unhealthy option. Can more work into healthy grab and go options be carried out?
- With some canteens being on the smaller side the canteen can get very busy and lots of queues so a lot of time is spent queuing which can be stressful and then with a small amount of time to eat and drink, often the food and drink offer reduced too.

- More guidance on what the food and drink offer should be across secondaries would be good. We have worked with a provider in Flintshire to develop a menu that the majority of schools are following. If all schools in Wales had the same menu and offer then that would help with communications and all messaging that goes out.
- Some food and drinks on offer can be expensive. It would be good if this was a consistent approach across Wales.
- Consistent healthy eating messages would be helpful across Primary and Secondary settings in and out of school. This has worked well in Food and Fun summer sessions and if key messages were promoted throughout secondary this would be good too. Maybe through a national awareness project.
- Healthy options in secondary's are not encouraged enough. There is a big jump from the Primary offer where it is more limited and controlled to the choice on offer in Year 7 and above. This is where the messaging may become inconsistent and then bad habits can form.
- Some school settings have strong SNAG's (School Nutrition Action Group) and their settings incorporate food and drink projects including meeting with the canteen with the school council. We think this is important and it would be good if more tips were shared on this for all of Wales.
- Understanding a healthy diet is important but this tends to be understood more and put into practice by young people during exam years. It would be very helpful if the education and messaging around this was carried out earlier in secondary schools.

Actions: Members to share the consultation link with their peers. This could be an activity that could be completed by school council, young people working groups also.

6. Period Proud Flintshire Commitments

The Period Proud Commitments have been redrafted following further feedback from young people and the community. No further amendments suggested.

Actions: Period Proud Commitments to be sent to the graphics team for design and print ready for the new autumn term.

7. Belonging

An overview of the Belonging project with Wrexham Civic Mission was shared including images from all of the workshops. Originally identified as a theme from the Autumn Young Persons Survey, project work has helped to inform a Belonging Strategy for the Education & Youth Portfolio in the council. Chief Officer for Education & Youth, Claire Homard updated Young Flintshire on the Belonging Strategy. The Belonging Strategy is to support improving attendance and engagement at Flintshire schools. On 9th May at the Flintshire Headteachers conference Young Flintshire work was shared and the proposal for this strategy was discussed. Headteachers appreciated Young Flintshire thoughts on Belonging. A working group has been established including portfolio staff and school staff. Jenette Rock, a senior manager in Education & Youth is leading on the strategy. On Thursday 19th June committee members endorsed the strategy.

Actions: Link to the Belonging Strategy Report and Webcast from 19th June to be shared with Young Flintshire Members and school council leads. Members to share this update with their peers.

8. You Said, We Worked With You

An overview of actions carried out so far this year was shared, along with updates on impacts. Providers have been asked to submit detailed updates on impact from engagement with Young Flintshire.

Actions: Once all updated received they will be collated into an Impact report 2025-2026 and shared with Young Flintshire members.

9. 3 Issues survey

The top 3 Issues from the Summer survey led by Youth Council was shared. They are:

1. Anti-Social Behaviour & Criminal activity
2. Substance Use
3. Lack of shared spaces and entertainment

Young Flintshire agreed these are areas to look at further and will be added to the 2025-2026 work plan. The lack of spaces and entertainment continues the focus on creative activities. Anti-social behaviour & Criminal Activity, along with substance misuse were in the top five issues 2024-2025 and now have become more so.

Actions: Include these three topics in the 2025-2026 work plan.

Next meeting dates and times:

The proposed model for 2025-2026 was suggested, everyone agreed this was a good model:

- A monthly workshop after school (Every third Tuesday of the month) 4.30-6.30pm Ty Dewi Sant, Ewloe
- One full day meeting each term (Autumn / Spring and Summer) at ty Dewi Sant, Ewloe

Attending the sessions online was also a request

Actions: Confirm the date for next year's sessions and carry out sessions using the Hybrid model.