



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6TH MARCH 2014

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY YOUTH SERVICE STRATEGY 2014-2019

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee of the vision and priorities for the Youth Service for the forthcoming 5 years.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report details the Youth Service Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) for the period 2014-2019.
- 2.2 The vision for the service is detailed in the report highlighting that young people are valued, heard, respected and empowered.
- 2.3 The report details the 12 key priorities for improving the delivery of youth work in the Borough.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report links directly to the Council's Education for Life, sustainability, regeneration, equalities and Welsh language strategies.
- 3.2 It also links with "Caerphilly Delivers", the Caerphilly Local Service Board Single Integrated Plan and the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives 3, 4, 6 and 7.
- 3.3 All proposals have a direct link with the pending Welsh Government National Youth Service Strategy 2014-2018 and also deliver on the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.
- 3.4 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Welsh Government Extending Entitlement Guidance.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The statutory Youth Service in Caerphilly currently engages over 7,000 young people predominantly between the ages of 10 to 19 which is equivalent to 20% of the youth population. Youth provision is managed and delivered by 31 full-time and 200 part-time staff, operating in up to 100 different locations, 28 of which are premises that house youth club provision.

- 4.1.2 The current core budget is £1,637,309 and is innovatively matched by a range of external grants that total to £1,225,681.
- 4.1.3. A review of the Youth Service was conducted in December 2012 by an independent contractor in order to identify good practice, areas for improvement, opportunities for innovation and the potential risks associated with failing to ensure quality delivery.

4.2 The Youth Service Strategy

- 4.2.1 The draft Caerphilly Youth Service Strategy provides a framework for the development of fit for purpose, quality and progressive personal and social education that is tailored to deliver directly to meet young peoples' needs.
- 4.2.2 The full details of the progress on the development of the Youth Service will be presented in subsequent reports.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is envisaged that the Youth Service Strategy, operational plan and project management templates will have a holistic commitment to equality of opportunity.
- 5.2 The Youth Service will be required to demonstrate its contribution to the inclusion agenda in line with the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives, via targets, consultation and monitoring in the Youth Service Strategy, the Directorate's Service Improvement Plans and information provided for inclusion in the annual monitoring and improvement reports for Equalities and Welsh language to the relevant Commissions.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Elected Members made available an additional revenue allocation of £100,000 to strengthen the delivery of the Youth Service. Recommendations for the allocation of this budget in line with the priorities contained within the Youth Service Strategy will form part of the implementation and will be subject to a further report.
- 6.2 An additional one off capital investment of £100,000 (insurance settlement as a result of fire) will enable managers to improve the quality of premises and purchase equipment and resources to deliver a balanced and progressive youth work curriculum.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from the report at this stage.
- 7.2 During the forthcoming months officers will provide update reports which include options for the restructuring of the Youth Service.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All comments received are contained within the report.
- 8.2 As part of the short-term plan, consultations will be undertaken with young people, Elected Members, staff and all key learning providers who have current partnership arrangements with the local authority over a period of a month.

8.3 A further report to scrutiny will be submitted as a result of the consultation.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 To seek Members views on the content of the Youth Service Strategy.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To ensure Members agree the vision and process for developing the Youth Service in Caerphilly.

11. STATUTORY POWERS

11.1 Extending Entitlement: supporting young people in Wales.

11.2 The Learning and Skills Act 2000.

11.3 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2010, Equalities Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Caerphilly draft Youth Service Strategy 2014- 2019