



**EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -
24TH SEPTEMBER 2013**

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY STATUTORY YOUTH SERVICE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the outcomes of the review of the Youth Service conducted by Darren O'Connor in December 2012.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report contains the recommendations of the review, the rationale for prioritisation and delivery.
- 2.2 It details the strengths currently derived from the review, areas which will be addressed over the coming months, together with the priorities deemed for urgent action.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report links directly to the Education for Life, sustainability, regeneration and equality strategies.
- 3.2 The Caerphilly County Borough Strategic Integrated Plan (SIP).
- 3.3 All proposals have a direct link with the pending new National Youth Service Strategy 2013-2018.
- 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 between the ages of 10 to 19 which is equivalent to 28% of the youth population. Youth provision is managed and delivered by 31 full-time and 200 part-time staff in 31 locations.

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. This budget provides a platform for the development of a broad and progressive range of youth work methods which are delivered through an extensive partnership structure and include:

Universal provision: Youth Centres/Clubs, Information Services and holiday schemes.

Targeted provision: Youth and Junior Forum, Young Parents, Outreach, Detached, Mobile, Residential, International, Accredited and Welsh Medium.

4.2. 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. (See Appendix 1).

4.3 The review noted that young people benefitted from:

- **engagement** within personal and social education
- secured useful **qualifications**
- well resourced, effective and strong commitment to **targeted provision**
- Elected Members having a good level of **awareness of the issues**
- core Youth Service **budget had increased**
- strong, skilled and committed **workforce**
- full time delivered to a particularly high standard

4.4 However, the Youth Service needed to focus on:

- lack of clarity as to the vision and **strategic direction**
- increasing **outcomes**
- **information sharing**
- an over emphasis on the maintenance of the status quo in relation to the part time service (**universal provision**)
- use of **data** underdeveloped
- projects vary in terms of **focus** and are difficult to assess in terms of quality
- successfully attracted **external funding** however this can lead to over reliance on grant funding

4.5 Estyn inspected the quality of local authority education services for children and young people in July 2012. It is essential that we consider the issues raised during this process in terms of the wider learning agenda and assess how non-formal and informal learning can enhance the formal learning process.

4.6 Issues directly affecting the Youth Service included making sure that young people gain appropriate **qualifications** from their activities but that it supports partners within Youth Support Services to **self-evaluate** effectively.

4.7 The Welsh Government (WG) issued a consultation document on 18th June 2013 on the vision for a new national youth work strategy. It is envisaged that the responses will be collated post 16th September and form the basis of WG Guidance for the Youth Service.

4.8 This document has a focus on delivering on 3 key themes, which include **Delivering Education, Building Capacity, Accountability and Results** and it will be important to ensure that the Caerphilly Youth Service Strategy will demonstrate delivery on these themes.

4.9 Work has begun in earnest to address the identified shortcomings and are listed below :-

- a training workshop has been delivered and a framework for the **Strategy** and Implementation Plan developed;

- identified the youth work **methods** currently available and those that need development;
- undertaken an analysis of the census **data** and identified the location of youth population;
- introduced a **banding system** for all youth centres and clubs in order to ensure safe, quality and fit for purpose premises;
- prepared a staff development **audit** in order to assess continuing professional development needs.

4.10 However, there are still a range of key tasks to be addressed, namely:-

- Develop a comprehensive action plan for the development of a 21st Century Youth Service.
- Write a vision, **strategy** and operational plan by December 2013 in line with the pending publication of the Welsh Government Guidance for the Youth Service in Wales.
- **Consult** with young people, staff and key partner organisations on the development of a 21st Century Youth Service by December 2013.
- Undertake an **audit** of all levels of staff have access to CPD and are appropriately qualified and skilled.
- Establish a framework for recording the **outcomes** and impact of personal and social education effectively through a robust **Management Information** process and utilise data to make informed judgements on improving and developing the Service by April 2014.
- Develop an effective **information sharing protocol** that enables effective partnership working by April 2014.
- Ensure a seamless **transition** between the formal, non-formal and informal learning sector to facilitate a joined up approach between the Inclusion and Youth Service teams by July 2014.
- Ensure fit for purpose and best value use of **resources**, agree core provision to deliver sustainable youth work methods and secure external funding to enhance by July 2014.
- It is proposed that the analysis of the youth population **data** contained in the 2011 Census will be used to identify the true level of need and this will be matched with the current staffing allocated within each geographical area. This will enable managers to make informed recommendations on the future development of youth provision.
- Managers will also utilise current **attendance** at youth centres and clubs to set targets for increasing the engagement of young people in order to establish an appropriate staffing ratio.
- An audit of current **premises** will also be undertaken in response to the banding structure to assess the quality and fit for purpose of facilities for young people. Managers will use this information to identify gaps in provision and deploy staffing resources effectively.

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.

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 Should there be any during the forthcoming months then these will be included in update reports.

8. CONSULTATIONS

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

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are asked to note the content of the report and progress made to date.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 To ensure Members are apprised of the outcomes of the review of Youth Service provision and progress made to date.

11. STATUTORY POWERS

- 11.1 Extending Entitlement: supporting young people in Wales.
- 11.2 The Learning and Skills Act 2000.

Author: Tanis Ann Cunnick, Community, Youth and Adult Services Manager
E-mail: cunnit1@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
H.R. Division
Finance Division

Background Papers:
Summary of the review of Caerphilly Youth Service

Appendices:
Appendix 1 Summary of the Review of the Youth Service
Appendix 2 Powerpoint Presentation – Developing a 21st Century Youth Service