



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14TH JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE SIX-MONTH PROGRESS UPDATE

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009, requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of priorities that improve the life of citizens. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) use Improvement Objectives (IO) and other data/information to evaluate the Council's annual progress on key performance indicators to measure the outcomes and impact on the citizens of Caerphilly.
- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to update elected members on the six-month progress of Improvement Objective 3 – Develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has identified the development of the Youth Service as a priority and Members are asked to review progress and agree the recommendations. Progress at the half-year stage is on target and further work will be on-going to achieve all the key targets by the end of the specified period.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The performance improvement objective delivers on the priorities contained in the Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017. The Improvement Objective is one of the Councils' six priorities that were published to the public in July 2013.
- 3.2 The performance improvement objectives also deliver on key Welsh Government Guidance which includes the recently published Youth Engagement and Progression Framework – Implementation Plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Our Improvement Objective provides the Youth Service with a priority focus in terms of delivering quality personal and social education to the young people between 11-25 years of age living in Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 4.2 A review of the Youth Service was conducted in 2012, the outcomes of which together with recommendations were reported to Scrutiny on the 24th September and subsequently Cabinet on the 2nd October 2013.

4.3 Following the review two key priorities for the development of the Youth Service were identified as an Improvement Objective for the Council (IO3). These are detailed in Appendix 1.

4.4 The two key priorities for the Youth Service are:-

- To help learners achieve formal and non-formal learning opportunities in a wide range of settings.
- To help improve engagement in learning opportunities.

4.5 A detailed action plan was produced to deliver on the above priorities which contain 6 key actions. The progress on these are as follows:-

A1 - Review of the Youth Service

Progress – This has been completed and the actions incorporated into the draft Caerphilly Youth Service Strategy and Operational Plan 2014-2019.

A2 – Data system

Progress – This has been developed successfully and managers are now able to analyse data to make robust recommendations on the future development of the Youth Service.

A3 – Increase Accredited Learning Opportunities

Progress - An accreditation officer was appointed in November. This role has a focus on increasing outcomes by training youth workers to deliver accredited learning in all youth work settings.

A4 – Work closely with schools

Progress – Managers have successfully established a partnership with Communities First and submitted a bid to Welsh Government to employ 4 youth workers and 4 family workers to be based in 4 schools to facilitate an early intervention process and prevent young people being EOTAS or NEET.

A5 – Improve outcomes for learners

Progress – The Youth Service and EOTAS provision has been aligned and all disadvantaged learners will have an individual learning plan that have a formal and informal learning focus. The appointment of an Engagement and Progression Co-ordinator will improve outcomes and impact in the forthcoming year.

A6 – Multi Agency Working with schools

Progress – Relationships have been established, structures and priorities identified.

4.6 This Action Plan is now being monitored on a regular basis by Education, Lifelong Learning SMT as part of the Directorates performance management process.

4.7 Progress to date against the key targets contained in the Action Plan is on schedule and will be further developed in the Youth Service Strategy and Operational Plan to ensure a cohesive, focused and consistent approach by the team as a whole.

4.8 The Youth Service Strategy and Operational Plan will provide a vision and mechanism for implementation for the development of the Youth Service 2014-2019. The IO3 priorities have been incorporated into this key document which will be presented to Members for their consideration towards the end of the financial year.

4.9 Managers have established strong partnerships, expanded youth work methodology, sought additional funding and appointed an Accreditation Officer to train staff and increase accredited outcomes which will have a significant impact on increasing the numbers of young people engaged and progressing through youth work intervention.

- 4.10 All operational staff are developing project management templates on key areas of work in order to provide a structure for the effective delivery of youth work which will include the result based accountability process. This provide a focus on what we intend to do, how it will be done and the difference it has made.
- 4.11 The Youth Service provides a platform for the knowledge and skills secured in schools to be utilised and applied during out of school hours to ensure a seamless transition from formal to the non-formal and informal learning process. This will therefore ensure that young people are provided with opportunities to develop life skills and ultimately empower them to realise their potential.
- 4.12 The Local Government Measure notes that there is a clear role for an authority's scrutiny function to improve processes.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report although the objective seeks to address inequities and promote opportunities for learning for young people.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 All responses from consultations have been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members note the progress on the objectives in respect of IO3.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Council undertakes effective scrutiny for setting and monitoring of performance improvement.
- 10.2 Young people will benefit from the outcomes and impact from youth intervention and enable them to maximise their potential and aspirations.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Local Government Measure 2009.

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Appendices:
Appendix A 6 Month Progress Update Dashboard