

Appendix 1 - Role of services

Educational Psychology Service and School Based Counselling Team

Through the Educational Psychology Service (EPS) and School-based Counselling Service (SBCS) the LA works in partnership with schools to empower schools to develop a whole-school approach appropriate to their setting. The services support a range of universal, targeted and specialist emotional wellbeing initiatives.

These interventions, through the provision of staff training and interventions with pupils, align with the objectives of the Health and Well-being curriculum AOLE, by enabling schools to support learners' mental health and emotional well-being and the development of positive relationships.

Youth Service

Caerphilly Youth Service provides for the inclusion of young people, regardless of their background, but fares particularly well in terms of either preventing their disengagement from education, their community or society more generally or re-engaging young people in those areas of their lives. Directly supporting the majority of vulnerable learners, specialist teams within the Youth Service engage on both a one to one and group basis with those with various types of vulnerability such as:

- those who are NEET or potentially NEET
- those who are homeless or potentially homeless
- LGBT young people (understood to be at higher risk from mental health issues and homelessness, for example)
- Children Looked After
- Those who have experienced trauma

Specific inclusion activity is undertaken by Youth Service teams such as the Youth Forum and the Targeted Youth and Family Engagement team (which engages with the most vulnerable of our young people in a family).

The Youth Service also operates a universal youth work provision which is for all young people and based on the open access principle. In addition to operating a wide curriculum, this allows for the association of groups of young people in safe, enjoyable environments either on particular sites (Youth Centres) or at any location where young people are (Outreach/Detached youth work). The open access nature of this work will mean that, frequently, looked after young people will be in attendance.

The Youth Service liaises closely with other services, including schools and education support services, as well as with Social Services, the Youth Offending Service and Gwent Police. Operating across a broad time frame (8am-9pm, including weekend availability and throughout school holiday periods), and in many locations, the Youth Service complements the work of schools and provides additional safeguarding coverage when other services are not available, as well as providing a key service of transition for young people to adulthood.

Given the reach of the service (16,000 young people per year pre-lockdown and 7,000 young people during lockdown), it's definitively nurturing approach, youth workers' ability to develop supportive relationships with young people across a variety of settings, and its dedicated Wellbeing staff, the Youth Service provides significant universal mental health support for young people in the County Borough.

Children Looked After Team

The children looked after team works across all schools with a link worker attached to each cluster. The team supports all children looked after (CLA) with link visits, provide support for schools, link with the Education Achievement Service (EAS) regarding the pupil development grant (PDG), attend reviews, supports transition and planning, and supports with the Personal Education Plan (PEP) and Individual Development Plan (IDP) processes to ensure compliance with the ALN Act (2018). The team also offers training to foster carers and works closely with Social Services and other agencies to ensure the needs of CLA are met.

Education Welfare Service

The Education Welfare Service (EWS) has officers linked to specific schools. They work directly with families on improving school attendance and identifying barriers to this. The service carry out work in the home with the family, act as a link back to school to improve relationships and identify need. The service work very closely with other agencies, including Children's Services, mental health support, and external support agencies.