

Improvement Objectives

IO3 - Develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people.

Summary

The Welsh Government demonstrated their commitment to youth work by publishing the National Youth Work Strategy in February of this year. The CCBC Youth Service will focus on delivering in response to this through the Caerphilly Youth Service Strategy and Operational Plan 2014- 2019 to ensure a consistent drive on the previous year's achievements but in a more specific and measurable way.

Effective youth work practice can build the capacity and resilience of young people. Youth Services have a strong track record in engaging young people in positive activities that are participative, empowering and encouraging. Through non-formal and informal learning, which supports personal and social development, Youth Services help young people to develop the skills and qualities they will need in adulthood.

The improvements that took place during 2013-14 have provided a strong foundation from which to continue developing effective youth work practices. This is an important area of work for the authority, and a joined up approach in supporting young people to reach their potential has been recognised as area for ongoing development.

The Service has reached a critical stage of development, as the imminent publication of its Strategy coincides with consideration being given to the making of structural management and operational changes, most especially with regard to the youth club (predominantly p/t) element of the Service. Consultations regarding the nature of both the Strategy and general operations with staff, elected members, young people and partners have proved fruitful and work is currently being undertaken to determine the best way forward.



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2013/14 End of Year Progress Summary:

We assessed this objective and judged it to be **successful** for the year 2013/14.

2014-15 Six Month Progress Summary:

At the midyear point all actions have progress made against them, and each one is progressing in a timely manner for completion in March 2015. For this reason the Directorate class the current status of the improvement objective as **successful**.

What have we done well over the last 6 months?

- Extensive consultation has taken place with regards to the Youth Service Strategy and its publication is now imminent.
- The Youth Work in Schools has been introduced into 4 schools as a pilot project. This project has currently engaged over 100 young people and is utilising various youth work methods to engage with the young people.
- Evidence of schools taking part in non formal learning experience s in partnership with the Youth Service has been highlighted the achievements of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili who are the first school in the authority to receive the Participation Kitemark. The school have been working with the Youth Worker and a team of 3 of our Young Inspectors who have conducted a thorough inspection and then written a detailed report for the school, which was assessed and verified by a partner LA.

What areas do we need to improve on? and how are we going to do it?

- It has been recognised that in order to achieve the targeted number of young people achieving national accreditations, there is a need to formalise some of the wider partnership working.
- The drive towards improved data collection is continuing and a number of pilots have taken place to access the suitability of different electronic systems. The Principal Youth Officers from across Gwent have also met to discuss data collection methods and share best practice. Local authorities have agreed to work together to ensure that a suitable method is developed that can be adapted to be fit for purpose for each local Youth Service.

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Actions

Title	Comment	RAG	Overall Status	% Complete
A1 Consult, publish and implement the Youth Service Strategy	Consulted with elected members, staff, young people, parents and key partners from April to June 2014. The strategy has been amended in response to the feedback and refined. Publication is scheduled for October 2014, with implementation to follow.	⊖	In Progress	33
A2 Increase the numbers of young people engaged by the Youth Service in comparison to the youth population	The Youth Service has set a target of a 5% increase in the number of young people engaged in the youth service, rising from 7800 to 8000.	⊖	In Progress	50
A3 Introduce a "Youth Work in Schools" project to engage young people experiencing poverty and deprivation, to improve	<p>Youth Work in Schools has been introduced into 4 schools as a pilot project. Lewis School, Pengam, Pontllanfraith, Rhymney and St Martins have all appointed a Youth Worker and Family Worker to engage with young people on site and in the community. A project plan has been developed as a template for delivery of best practice.</p> <p>To date the number of young people engaged in the project is 113, and this has been over a short period at the end of the summer term (2013-14). As the project develops over the 2014-15 Academic Year we are confident that the levels of engagement will continue to increase, and that positive outcomes for young people and their families can be recorded.</p>	⊖	In Progress	20
A4 Increase the numbers of young people securing non-formal learning qualifications.	<p>A number of young people have enrolled in national accreditation s and are undertaking modules and credits, working towards a final accreditation.</p> <p>Alongside accreditation the Youth Service offer children and young people the opportunity to engage in a number of learning activities that enrich their lives and reduce barriers to learning. One example of this is the Participation Kitemark, which has been recently awarded to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Caerffili who have been working with the Youth Worker and a team of 3 of our Young Inspectors who have conducted a thorough inspection and then written a detailed report for the school, which was assessed and verified by a partner LA.</p>	⊖	In Progress	40
A5 Improve equality of access to Youth Service provision, by widening delivery of Youth Work. Expand youth work methodology and settings in order to meet the needs of young people.	<p>Established a partnership with schools and Communities First to develop a Youth and Family Workers in Schools Programme, as referenced in A3.</p> <p>A youth leadership course was delivered July and 11 young people were engaged, which resulted in young people knowledge and experience of youth work delivery. This will provide a platform for young people to potentially secure part time employment within the youth service.</p>	⊖	In Progress	70
A6 Refining methods of data collection, embracing current technology and aligning with other educational data, to better track the engagement and progression of young people.	Officers have developed a structure and collated information to enable the early identification of young people through a Vulnerability Assessment Profile. This will aid schools and key officers to target appropriate intervention and support, to remove barriers to learning and reduce the potential for young people to become NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) .	⊖	In Progress	40

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How much did we do?

Title	Actual	Target	Intervention	RAG	Result 12 Months Ago	Comment
Number of Young People engaged by Youth Services	2909.00	4000.00	2000.00	↓		This is still the Q1 performance. The data for Q2 will be updated after 1st November.
Number of young people achieving national accreditation (non-formal and formal) - Yrly	0.00	440.00	330.00	↓		This data refers to the performance at the end of Q1, the data for Q2 is currently being calculated and will be available after 1st November.
Number of young people achieving local accreditation (non-formal and formal) - Yrly	386.00	2400.00	1800.00	↓		This data refers to the performance at the end of Q1, the data for Q2 is currently being

How well did we do it?

Title	Actual	Target	Intervention	RAG	Result 12 Months Ago	Comment
% local inspections of selected youth service projects and clubs graded as adequate or above (wording revised 13-14)		100.00				This PI changed its name in 2014/15 from: % of peer observations judged as good or above all youth service provision based on a planned observation cycle per year
Customer Satisfaction - Youth Services - % Young People rating the quality of service to be good or above		90.00	80.00			
Percentage of pupil attendance in secondary schools (EDU016b)		93.50	92.00		92.02	The provisional data indicates the attendance is 92.9%. This will be confirmed via the publication of PAM data.

Is anyone better off?

Title	Actual	Target	Intervention	RAG	Result 12 Months Ago	Comment
% of 16 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) in October (Yr 11)		4.00	4.40			The data will be made available from a Careers Wales in November 2014.
The percentage of pupils (including those in local authority care) in any local authority maintained school, aged 15 as at the preceding 31 August who leave compulsory education, training or work based learning without an approved external qualification (04a EDU002i)		0.30	0.40			This data will be available once Key Stage 4 data is confirmed in December 2014/ January 2015.