



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 9TH DECEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise members of progress with a review of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme in Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report outlines details of a review of current provision of the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award scheme and recommended areas for improvement which have been formulated by a cross directorate task group.
- 2.2 As a result of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Performance Review 2013-2014, which highlighted that Caerphilly had only reached 1.4% of the youth population (14-24 years), in comparison to the Wales average of 2.5% (Full Report in Appendix 1) A cross directorate task group was established between the Environment and Education and Lifelong Learning, with officers attending from Sport & Leisure Services, Youth Service and Connecting Communities. The group were tasked with reviewing the current provision of the scheme and evaluating how CCBC could improve on its current level of performance in comparison to other local authorities in Wales.
- 2.3 Areas for improvement have been identified to increase engagement with organisations (other than schools) and young people in Caerphilly.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Duke of Edinburgh award scheme links to the drivers for change in sport and physical activity identified within Climbing Higher, Creating an Active Wales, and the Vision for Sport in Wales.
- 3.2 The achievement of accredited outcomes for young people is recognised as an important element of both the Engagement and Progression Framework (2013) and National Youth Work Strategy for Wales (2014), which is locally interpreted through Caerphilly CBC Youth Service Strategy, which is due to be finalised in January 2015.
- 3.3 As part of the CCBC Corporate Plan, a number of improvement objectives are highlighted; DofE has the potential to contribute to outcomes identified in both
IO3: Develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people. Personal and social development of young people
IO4: Improve awareness, access, variety and use of leisure, community and sporting

facilities in our borough.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 As stated in 2.2, above a review of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme in Caerphilly was identified on receipt of the Duke of Edinburgh award performance review 2013-2014 (Appendix 1). This was an opportunity to work in collaboration across departments to support the opportunities available for young people within our community.
- 4.2 The priority focus for the task group was to agree some key principles, review the current DofE provision and recommend areas for improvement, with a focus on increased engagement of organisations and young people.
- 4.3 The group has a collective passion and energy for DofE with the ultimate aim of improving outcomes for the young people of Caerphilly. The group's focus for the review was in the following areas:-
- Review of current provision
 - Improved engagement
 - Continued professional development of staff
 - Resources
- 4.4 The Duke of Edinburgh scheme currently has one member of staff who is based in Community & Leisure services within the Caerphilly Adventures team. While the Caerphilly Adventures team can provide the expertise, equipment and support to the one staff member delivering the DofE programme there is only so much one officer can achieve. The current focus of the officer is the provision within School settings.
- 4.5 The DofE scheme is available to young people between the ages of 14 to 24 years of age and offers 3 levels of accreditation, Bronze, Silver & Gold awards. Caerphilly currently has 8 out of its 14 Secondary schools engaged in the D of E programme. The 6 schools that are currently not engaged in the programme have been approached but to date have not wanted to engage in the programme.
- 4.6 The current number of young people enrolled on the DofE programme at the date of writing this report (5/9/14) is-
- Bronze - 300
 - Silver - 35
 - Gold - 5
- The Target agreed with DofE Wales is 400 enrolments, of which the majority of participants are based in schools.
- 4.7 In addition to the important role played by schools in the DofE programme, there is a contribution that could be made within youth centre settings. Generally, the DofE scheme is not being delivered in youth centre settings and there are consequently opportunities for the wider delivery of the DofE programme within these settings.
- 4.8 The task group referred to in 2.2 above was provided with a brief which was agreed between the Sport & Leisure Services Manager (Community & Leisure Services) and the Service Manager for Adult, Youth and Community (Education & Lifelong Learning).
- 4.9 This collaborative, cross department task group undertook the review in accordance with the brief and have outlined 4 key recommended area from improvement. These include:-
- Develop a multi agency DofE Project Plan that identifies how the programme should be delivered in the short, medium and long term.
 - Increase the number of schools participating in the DofE scheme from 8 to 14.

- Increase the numbers of young people participating in the DofE scheme in Youth Centres and Projects.
- Undertake a workforce audit and identify members of staff who require DofE training in order to support young people effectively.
- Identify resources from key service areas that could underpin the development of DofE to ensure equality of opportunity to all young people throughout the Borough.
- Consider a local DofE award event annually to recognise young people's achievements.
- Collate robust and accurate data on the outcomes and impact of DofE in Caerphilly and share this with Senior Managers and Elected Members.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equality implications associated with this report, as the DofE award scheme is offered to young people irrespective of age, race, sex, etc.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Currently the financial costs to run the scheme equate to the officer's salary within the Caerphilly Adventures Team (circa £32,000) in addition to the provision of relevant equipment (camping equipment, etc) and other staff resources when they are available.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no significant personnel implications associated with this report.
- 7.2 However, the move to up-skill a wider group of staff would obviously present benefits to the staff concerned and the DofE programme.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The report reflects the views of the listed consultees.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Members are asked to note the progress of the scheme and support the areas for improvement.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 There is a need to improve current provision to ensure that more young people are engaged in the programme.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Acts.

Author: Jared Lougher, Sport & Leisure Development Manager & Tanis Cunnick, Manager
Adult, Youth & Community
e-mail loughj@caerphilly.gov.uk Tele: 01495 235469

Consultees: Mark S. Williams, Head of Community & Leisure Services
Councillor David Poole, Cabinet Member for Community & Leisure Services
Sandra Aspinall, Acting Deputy Chief Executive
David Phenis, Sport & Leisure Manager
Tanis Cunnick, Manager- Adult, Youth and Community
Robert Keep, Caerphilly Adventures Team Leader
John Poyner, Connecting Communities Manager
Paul O'Neil, Youth Service Manager
Councillor Tudor Davies, Chair of Regeneration & Environment Scrutiny
Committee

Appendices:
Appendix 1 DofE Wales Performance 2013-2014