



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 7TH JULY 2015

SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE 2014-2015 YEAR END REVIEW

REPORT BY: INTERIM 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 progress of Improvement Objective 3 – Develop an effective and accessible Youth Service that supports the personal and social development of young people, for the year 2014/15 and provide the service's evaluation of whether the IO has been successful or not.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council identified the development of the Youth Service as a priority in 2013 and the IO was established over the period April 2013 – March 2015.
- 2.2 Members are asked to review progress and agree the recommendations. At the year end, all actions have been achieved and the report highlights the positive work that has taken place and as such the objective has been assessed as successful.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The IO delivers on the priorities contained in the Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017, specifically those contained within the Learning section of the plan.
- 3.2 The Improvement Objective is one of the Councils' six priorities that were published to the public in July 2013. The objectives were put in place for a two year period and were completed at March 2015.
- 3.3 The performance improvement objectives also deliver on key Welsh Government Guidance which includes the recently published Youth Engagement and Progression Framework – Implementation Plan (2013) and the National Youth Service Strategy (2014)

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The 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 Over the past two years the Welsh Government has made significant steps in producing strategic guidance for service that impact on young people. The publication of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (2013), which supports the Welsh Government Programme for Government and identifies that intensifying youth engagement and employment, is a priority for Wales. The framework aims to help all young people overcome the challenges they face so that they have the opportunity to make a positive progression beyond compulsory education at 16.
- 4.3 The development of this framework and the National Youth Work Strategy for Wales (2014) reinforces our aims to introduce a strong data management system to allow us to make informed decisions, and align services. They also instruct us to continue developing a tracking system, now with national guidelines, to provide early identification information on young people regarding the attainment and engagement.
- 4.4 At a local level, the development of a Caerphilly Youth Service Strategy provides a local interpretation of these national documents and highlights important areas for action.
- 4.5 The Improvement Objective focused on six priorities including:
- Review of the Youth Service
 - Data system
 - Increase Accredited Learning Opportunities
 - Work closely with schools
 - Improve outcomes for learners
 - Multi Agency Working

Each of these actions has been completed and the Directorate judges the improvement objective to be successful. The full summary is provided in Appendix 1.

- 4.6 This Action Plan has been monitored on a regular basis by Education and Lifelong Learning's Senior Management Team (SMT) as part of the Directorate's performance management process.
- 4.7 Following the completion of the IO, work will progress to deliver an effective and accessible Youth Service through the annual service plans which will be reported to scrutiny bi-annually.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this report although the objective seeks to address inequalities 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 The Scrutiny Committee consider the content of the report and note the progress made in meeting the actions set out in the action plan.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Council undertakes effective scrutiny for setting and monitoring of performance improvement.
- 10.2 To apprise members of progress made in meeting the improvement objective and the impact on young people.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Local Government Measure 2009.

Author: Tanis Ann Cunnick – Manager, Youth Community and Adult Education

Consultees: Keri Cole – Chief Education Officer

Bleddyn Hopkins - Assistant Director, Education and Lifelong Learning

Councillor Rhianon Passmore – Cabinet Member for Education

Ros Roberts – Corporate Performance Manager

Appendices:

Appendix A Year End (2014-2015) Improvement Objective 3 Dashboard