

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016

## Youth Services Update Report

### To consider and comment on the following issues:

To update scrutiny committee members on :

- The Youth Progression and Engagement Framework.
- The Youth Clubs 2014 Scrutiny Task and Finish Review Action Plan.
- The efficiency savings impact on the service and progress made with re-structuring of the Youth Service.

### Reasons:

- To enable Members to exercise their scrutiny role in relation to the delivery of education and youth support services as specified in the Learning and Skills Act 2000.

**To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: NO**

**Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

<b>Directorate:</b> Education & Children	<b>Designations:</b>	<b>Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:</b>
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Aeron Rees	Head of Learner Programmes	01267 246532 <a href="mailto:jarees@cararthenshire.gov.uk">jarees@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Report Author:</b> Gill Adams	Principal Manager Youth Support Services	01554 744322 <a href="mailto:gmadams@cararthenshire.gov.uk">gmadams@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a>
Matt Morden	Learning Transformation Manager	01267 246648 <a href="mailto:msmorden@cararthenshire.gov.uk">msmorden@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a>

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016

## Youth Services Update Report

This report updates Scrutiny Committee members on the progress made by the Youth Support Service and related partners on:

- The implementation of the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement & Progression Framework initiative during the 2015/2016 academic year.
- A review of the Youth Clubs 2014 Scrutiny Task and Finish Review Action Plan
- Efficiency savings impact on the service and progress made with re-structuring of the service.

The attached report includes:

- Details of on-going work led by the Learning Transformation Manager in conjunction with the Youth Support Service to deliver the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework designed to reduce the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET);
- An update on actions to deliver the recommendations of the 2013/14 Members Youth Clubs Task and Finish Group (Appendix 2).
- Details of the merger of the Youth Service and Youth Offending and Prevention Service to form the Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service on 1/1/16.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

# IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Signed:            **Aeron Rees**                            **Head of Learner Programmes**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>

**1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities**

Youth Work

Youth support services linked to the Welsh Government’s Youth Engagement and Progression Framework for young people aged 11-25 in Carmarthenshire play an important role in promoting social inclusion via activities including:

- The identification of young people at risk of not succeeding in formal education via a Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) of all pupils on school roll;
- Tracking of young people when they leave school via the Careers Wales IO Database;
- The follow up and use of targeted youth work to engage with young people known to be not in employment, education or training;
- A wide range of youth work projects in schools, youth centres and local communities;
- Welsh medium and bilingual education and youth support service delivery.

Youth Work in Wales: Principles and Purposes (2013) sets out the key principles which underpin youth work in Wales. It provides an overview of the nature, purposes and delivery methods used in youth work practice.

Youth Justice

In July 2014, the Welsh Government and the Youth Justice Board published, “Children and Young People First”, their joint strategy to improve services for young people from Wales at risk of becoming involved in, or in, the youth justice system. Sitting below the strategy is a national annual delivery plan which will be monitored by the Wales Youth Justice Advisory Panel.

## 2. Legal

Section 123 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 requires that the local authority, "...provide youth support services, secure the provision of youth support services or participate in the provision of youth support services." Within the Act there is an expectation that a local authority puts in place a mechanism to plan, coordinate and deliver a range of support services for all young people (11-25) in its area, working in close cooperation with young people and providers of services for them.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 established Youth Offending Teams\* in England and Wales with the stated intention of reducing the risk of young people offending and re-offending. Youth Offending Teams are statutory, multi-disciplinary partnerships that are co-ordinated by the Local Authority. Local governance is carried out by a management board made up of the partners, and nationally by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales, which is part of the Ministry of Justice.

\*Youth Offending Team is a generic term; names given to such teams within local authorities in England and Wales can vary. In Carmarthenshire, 'Youth Justice Team' is the term used.

## 3. Finance

The Youth Support Service relies upon a wide range of funding streams all of which are public funding. The service has emerged out of the need for radical structural change in response to the requirement for efficiencies to be made.

The great majority of public funding available to support youth work in Wales is administered by local authorities with funding allocated from the Revenue Support Grant (RSG) provided by Welsh Government. The Revenue Support Grant (RSG) is an unhyothecated funding stream and it is therefore a decision of local authorities as to how this funding is utilised in order to best meet their local needs and priorities, including the provision of youth services.

In 2015/16 the Youth Service and Youth Offending and Prevention Service received a total of £812,134 from the County Council. In 2016/17 this amount has been reduced to £793,728.

Since 2013, the Welsh Government (WG) has provided an annual grant to support the local development of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. This funding will continue for 2016/17. In addition to this YEPF specific resource, a wide range of grants and the Youth Support Service core budget support this work.

Funding cuts have been confirmed for 2016/17 in relation to:

- WG Families First – a reduction of £3,241 in relation to school based youth work support and £29,323 in relation to post 16 youth work support respectively, compared with 2015/16;

- WG Promoting Positive Engagement for Children and Young People (at risk of offending) - a reduction of 11.6% (£26,398) compared with the previous year.

At the time of writing, the Youth Justice Board has not confirmed its funding allocation for the provision of youth justice services within Carmarthenshire. However, having modelled the service budget to include a projected cut of 25% (as advised by the Youth Justice Board in early March 2016) the Youth Support Service could be facing an overall reduction in funding of £152,552 in 2016/17 as compared with 2015/16 (- 6.8%).

The Youth Support Service has been allocated an additional sum of £50,000 from the County Council for 2016/17 (included in current budget projections). This money will be used to support targeted safeguarding and prevention interventions linked to critical areas of work including child sexual exploitation and work under s.26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which places a duty on the local authority to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism."

## 5. Risk Management Issues

While implementing the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework is not a statutory requirement on the local authority, failure to deliver a reduction in the number of young people who are NEET will have significant risks for Carmarthenshire. These risks include increasing numbers of young people unable to enter employment locally, increasing levels of benefit dependency and families suffering from the effects of poverty.

Further proposed cuts to the provision of youth justice services within Carmarthenshire will doubtlessly have an impact upon how services are configured and delivered.

## 6. Staffing Implications

The Welsh Government's YEPF grant supports one dedicated post within the Youth Support Service. A range of other funding sources including grants and core budget support a wide range of service posts delivering the six elements of the YEPF.

The re-structuring of the Youth Support Service in January 2016 has resulted in the loss of a Service Manager post and 2 Senior Youth Officer posts. Whilst other posts are not under immediate threat in 2016/17, any further cuts to funding streams and changes to funding arrangements could have implications for staffing.

# CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: **Aeron Rees** Head of Learner Programmes

1. **Local Member(s)** – N/A

2. **Community / Town Council** – N/A

3. **Relevant Partners** – N/A

4. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** – During 2015/16 Youth Service and Youth Offending and Prevention Service staff and unions have been widely consulted on the revised Youth Support Service staffing structure implemented from 1st January 2016 (see section 3 of attached report).

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW:**

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Youth Engagement and Progression Framework Implementation Plan (2013)	<p><b>Cymraeg</b>  <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/131007-ye-framework-implementation-plan-cy.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/131007-ye-framework-implementation-plan-cy.pdf</a></p> <p><b>English</b>  <a href="http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/131007-ye-framework-implementation-plan-en.pdf">http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/131007-ye-framework-implementation-plan-en.pdf</a></p>
Statistics Wales – Youth Work in Wales data set 2014-2015	<p><a href="http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2014/141022-youth-work-2014-15-en.pdf">http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2014/141022-youth-work-2014-15-en.pdf</a></p>
York University Study 2010 – Estimating the Lifetime costs of young people becoming NEET	<p><a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/pdf/NEET_Summary.pdf">http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/pdf/NEET_Summary.pdf</a></p>
Carmarthenshire Labour Market Information report	<p><a href="http://rlp.infobasecymru.net/IAS/resource/view?resourceId=1078">http://rlp.infobasecymru.net/IAS/resource/view?resourceId=1078</a></p>

Title of Document	File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
<p>Wales Audit Office study on NEET Reduction strategies in Wales (July 2014)</p>	<p><b>Cymraeg</b>  <a href="http://www.audit.wales/cy/system/files/publications/NEETs_Report_National_version_2014_Welsh.pdf">http://www.audit.wales/cy/system/files/publications/NEETs_Report_National_version_2014_Welsh.pdf</a></p> <p><b>English</b>  <a href="http://www.wao.gov.uk/system/files/publications/NEETs_Report_National_version_2014_English.pdf">http://www.wao.gov.uk/system/files/publications/NEETs_Report_National_version_2014_English.pdf</a></p>
<p>National Youth Work Strategy for Wales 2014-18</p>	<p><b>Cymraeg</b>  <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/140417-national-youth-work-strategy-cy.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/140417-national-youth-work-strategy-cy.pdf</a></p> <p><b>English</b>  <a href="http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/140417-national-youth-work-strategy-en.pdf">http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/140417-national-youth-work-strategy-en.pdf</a></p>
<p>Youth Justice Strategy for Wales: Children and Young People First (2014)</p>	<p><b>Cymraeg</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/374573/Youth_Justice_Strategy_Welsh.PDF">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/374573/Youth_Justice_Strategy_Welsh.PDF</a></p> <p><b>English</b>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/374572/Youth_Justice_Strategy_English.PDF">https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/374572/Youth_Justice_Strategy_English.PDF</a></p>