

Update Report on Youth Support Services

1.0 Carmarthenshire Youth Engagement & Progression Framework Update

The Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework focuses on reducing the number of young people aged 11 to 25 who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) in Wales. This non-statutory plan sets out the responsibilities of the local authority in bringing together a partnership to oversee local delivery of the framework.

The strategy identifies has six key elements that combine to enable a reduction in the number of young people becoming NEET in a local area:

- Identifying young people most at risk of disengagement via a Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP);
- Better brokerage and co-ordination of support for young people;
- Stronger tracking and transitions of young people through the system;
- Ensuring provision meets the needs of young people;
- Strengthening employability skills and opportunities for employment; and
- Greater accountability for better outcomes for young people.

This work links with the implementation of the Post 16 Planning and Funding System in 2014, the recommendations of the Review of 14-19 Qualifications in Wales 2012 together with the WG's wider work to boost youth employment through Jobs Growth Wales, traineeships and apprenticeships.

Carmarthenshire has developed a shared approach to implementing the YEPF, working in close collaboration with Pembrokeshire and overseen by the shared two counties Executive Group. All Welsh local authorities are required to implement an action plan for the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework. This action plan is developed in the context of other local authority plans and strategies such as school improvement schemes, Families First, Communities First, Carmarthenshire Corporate Strategy and the Integrated Community Strategy.

The Welsh Government believes that strong strategic leadership from local authorities is a critical part of the successful implementation of these plans. Key to the local delivery of these plans is the identification of a strategic lead officer for this work, together with the employment of an Engagement and Progression co-coordinator. These two roles are required to work closely together to oversee the local implementation of a YEPF plan.

The Welsh Government has set out its on-going commitment to tackling poverty by prioritising the needs of the poorest and protecting those most at risk of poverty and exclusion in the 'Tackling Poverty Action Plan 2012-2016'. A key part of this plan was a commitment to reduce the number of young people who are NEET. New targets were set out in the plan and re-affirmed in the role of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework to:

- Reduce the numbers of NEET young people aged 16 - 18 to 9% by 2017;
- Reduce the proportion of young people aged 19-24 who are NEET in Wales relative to the UK as a whole by 2017.

Working closely with the Pembrokeshire 14-19 Network and Careers Wales, the Carmarthenshire 14-19 Network and the Youth Support Service have refocused a range of provision to meet the needs of young people and the requirements of the Welsh Government's YEPP.

To date these actions have included:

- Restructuring of the Youth Support Service to combine the work of the Youth Service and Youth Offending and Prevention Service to work on a thematic basis to ensure greater consistency of support services for young people;
- Appointment of an Engagement and Progression Co-ordinator;
- Gaining agreement that school and college based youth work together with post 16 youth work will be "made services" in Families First commissioning process and thus ensuring funding of these roles to 2017;
- Implementation of a Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) programme to identify all young people in secondary schools at risk of becoming NEET at 16;
- Use of information gained from the VAP to identify pupils in need of support in schools and supporting the post 16 transition of young people likely to become NEET;
- Using monthly 5 Tier NEET data from Careers Wales and Job Centre Plus to follow up and support young people aged 16-19;
- Mapping of the learning provision (core and additional NEET related) available in the county to avoid duplication;
- Better sharing of information regarding job and training vacancies locally;
- Development of ESF bids with regional partners for submission to the EU 2014-2020 programme to support the young people most at risk of becoming NEET;
- Continued close working with Pembrokeshire on these developments via the shared Pembrokeshire / Carmarthenshire 14-19 & YEPP steering group and shared training events.

A key part of the implementation of the YEPP in Carmarthenshire is the implementation of a network of 'lead workers' providing continuity of support and contact to vulnerable young people and supporting them to engage with and access wider support services. Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service staff are both suitably skilled and best positioned to provide the lead worker role for many of the young people identified as being in need of support to prevent their disengagement from education and training, or to support them to re-engage.

This work is closely linked to the use of the Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) in all secondary schools. This tool identifies young people in need of additional support, which is then provided by a combination of mainstream services and Families First interventions overseen by the Team Around the Family approach. The VAP will also be used to target interventions funded by the regional Cynnydd ESF bid. Funding from this bid is likely to be available from early in 2016 and will be overseen by a joint management group incorporating staff from the local authority and Coleg Sir Gâr.

While this work means that officers are better placed than ever to know the whereabouts of young people of school age in Carmarthenshire, it also results in the relevant departmental services becoming aware of more young people out of mainstream education and thus in need of support.

Carmarthenshire Pupil Destination Data – October 2015

The latest Carmarthenshire Careers Wales pupil destination data (2015) shows that the percentage of Carmarthenshire Year 11 pupils who became NEET rose very slightly

from 3.4% (69 yp) in 2014 to 3.5% (69 yp) in 2015. The all Wales comparative data for 2015 will be published by Statistics Wales in April 2016.

This small increase was a function of the effects of the following factors:

- The high level of dependency on external grant funding to support the Youth Support Service and YEPF;
- An increased focus on pupil attendance leading to more young people being educated at home (given parents are concerned about fines if pupils do not attend school and thus are withdrawing their children to avoid this) and where this happens in Years 10 and 11, the likelihood of these young people becoming NEET increases significantly.
- The Welsh Government and Wales European Funding Unit delays in implementing the 2015 -2020 ESF programme which offers opportunities for targeted project work with this cohort of young people.

Additionally, the percentages of pupils progressing to 6th Form (39%) and FE College – primarily Coleg Sir Gâr (46%) have remained fairly static over the last five years. This is a reflection of the strength of local educational partnership working which is acknowledged as sector leading. Consequently, there is not great “competition” locally for Post 16 pupils.

In 2015, Carmarthenshire schools retained 81% of their Year 12 leavers, suggesting a high degree of pupil satisfaction with the Sixth Form experience on offer in schools. The percentage of young people becoming NEET at the end of Year 12 was 1.0%. However, focus on this cohort of young people remains a priority since levels of pupil drop out from Year 12 can be an indicator of dissatisfaction with the curriculum on offer, particularly for those pupils who return to the Sixth Form without a clear focus for progression and/or weak GCSE grades.

The percentage of Year 13 pupils becoming NEET has dropped from 6.0% (46 yp in 2014 to 2.8% - 21 yp) in 2015. Most Year 13 leavers (69.5%) progressed to university, with 9% progressing to further education and 5% remaining in school for another year. This data suggests that a small number of pupils who were not well suited to A Levels stayed on at school when they may have been better served progressing to FE College or work-based training. These pupils did not achieve high grades at A Level in school and thus either went to further education post A Level (in effect wasting two years in school) and/or did not progress and became NEET. This area is a particular focus for the new Post 16 Planning and Funding System and will be a key area of study in the current 11-19 Education & Training review.

The 2015 destination data highlights the on-going need to reduce the number of young people who become NEET. This work will be supported by curriculum review initiatives currently being developed by the Department for Education and Children and a range of work-related education programmes being delivered by the CCC Regeneration Team. Additionally, activities delivered via the regional Cynnydd ESF project will assist young people in progressing to further education, training and employment during the Post 16 education phase.

The Regional Cynnydd ESF Project

The Cynnydd project (known as “operation” in WEFO/EU terminology) will be funded via Specific Objective 2 (to reduce the number of those at risk of becoming NEET, amongst 11-24 year olds) of the 2014-2020 West Wales and the Valleys ESF Operational

Programme. The lead beneficiary (budget holder) is Pembrokeshire County Council who will be responsible for central project management and the oversight of procurement associated with the project.

The other Cynnydd beneficiaries (partners) are the five local authorities and five further education colleges in South West Wales, together with Careers Wales. Cynnydd is targeted at those young people aged 11 – 24 who are identified as being at the very greatest risk of becoming NEET. It will systematically identify and track these young people, making use of each county's pupil Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) that identifies young people who may not succeed in education and thus become NEET. All young people supported by the project must be identified as being at risk of becoming NEET by the VAP. The strategy behind the operation is aligned to the EU /ESF Operational Programme and key Welsh Government policies, in particular the flagship Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, a strategy aimed at reducing the number of young people who become NEET in Wales.

Across the south west Wales region, Cynnydd will work with 4,500 young people who are judged to be most at risk of becoming NEET, over an initial three year period from January 2016 to December 2018. In Carmarthenshire, the project will work with 1008 young people, with this group being supported via local authority and Coleg Sir Gar staff together with additional projects procured via the Sell to Wales system.

The primary outcomes of the project will be measured using the indicator "Participants at risk of becoming NEET (11 – 24) at reduced risk of becoming NEET upon leaving". It is hoped that the overall effects of this programme and related curriculum developments will be to significantly reduce the numbers of young people in Carmarthenshire becoming NEET.

Carmarthenshire County Council YEPF Actions 2016-2017

The following actions are identified in the Carmarthenshire YEPF grant work plan submitted to Welsh Government in February 2016. These actions will be the main focus of work for the related staff over the coming financial year:

1. Sustaining the Engagement and Progression Co-ordinator role functions in Carmarthenshire for the 2016-2017 year (on-going to 31st March 2017);
2. Full implementation of the Vulnerability Assessment Profile in all Secondary Schools for Years 7-11 to ensure early identification of all young people who may become NEET (by 1st September 2016);
3. On-going brokerage and support through multi-agency working for young people aged 11-18 at risk of becoming NEET via the Carmarthenshire Supporting Education, Employment and Training Group (by 31st March 2017);
4. Updating and expanding the Carmarthenshire Provision map and hosting of a web-based resource highlighting this information via the Un Sir Gar hub (by 31st October 2016);
5. Tracking young people during the key transition periods (e.g. Year 11 leavers) in partnership with Careers Wales (on-going to 31st March 2017);
6. Working with the Carmarthenshire Cynnydd Project Manager and Coleg Sir Gar to implement the in-county elements of this regional ESF project to reduce the number of young people who become NEET (on-going to 31st March 2017);
7. Supporting the development of the regional *Cam Nesa* ESF project to deliver employability skills for 16-25's who are currently NEET (by 31st March 2017);

8. Supporting the transition of young people from Year 11 to Post 16 provision via multi-agency working with FE and training providers (on-going to 31st March 2017);
9. Supporting the brokerage of support services for young people identified through the CW Tier Model data and the work of the Carmarthenshire SEET group (on-going to 31st March 2017);
10. Enhancing the activities delivered through initiatives funded by the Youth Work Strategy Support Grant (on-going to 31st March 2017);
11. Undertaking the Lead Worker casework role for young people identified as Tier 1 on the Careers Wales IO database (on-going to 31st March 2017);
12. Sustaining links with local voluntary sector organisations to ensure specific and targeted provision for the most vulnerable young people who may otherwise not be known to the YEPF partnership (on-going to 31st March 2017).

2.0 Update on Recommendations of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group Action Plan

The Education & Children Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in monitoring services, development of key policies and strategies, as well as identifying areas for improvement or development.

At the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Meeting on the 13th March 2013, members considered a report outlining proposals to establish a task and finish review of the County Council's youth club provision. Members were informed that the current provision of County Council youth clubs had developed over an eighteen year period following the creation of Carmarthenshire County Council in 1996. While these youth clubs met the local needs of young people when they were created, there was a need to plan this provision more strategically.

Given changing Welsh Government priorities for youth service provision and on-going financial pressures on the local education authority budget, a review of the current delivery of youth clubs was needed to develop a service that was sustainable and responsive to the current needs of Carmarthenshire young people.

The Committee unanimously resolved to accept the report and establish a Task & Finish Group to undertake a review. This group met to review the existing youth club provision and address key issues during 2013. A final report on this work was presented to the Education and Children's Service Scrutiny Committee on 23rd January 2014.

The Task and Finish Group made 10 recommendations to inform the future development of youth club provision in Carmarthenshire. An update on the progress of the related actions is provided in Appendix 2 (below).

3.0 Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service

The management structure of the Youth Service was re-organised in June 2014, with the establishment of a Principal Youth Officer role and a shift from an area-based approach to a thematic structure managed by 3 Senior Youth officers. The cross county thematic approach was based around schools and college based youth work, Post 16

and YEPF work and positive activities.

During 2014 and 2015, discussions between Carmarthenshire Youth Service and Carmarthenshire Youth Offending and Prevention Service Managers highlighted the potential for a shared management structure that would retain the statutory functions of both services; bring together the preventative work of both services and retain elements of direct universal youth work provision. It was anticipated that an integrated management structure would allow for the development of a more holistic approach to youth support services based upon key themes:

- The development of team around the family approaches that involve both services;
- An increasingly targeted approach to youth work in Wales;
- Fewer young people entering the criminal justice system;
- A recognition that in many cases both services were working with the same young people;
- On-going public sector budget cuts for the foreseeable future;
- The requirements of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework and the need to reduce the number of young people 'Not in Education, Employment or Training'.

From April 2015, the Youth Offending and Prevention Service and the Youth Service became accountable to a single Service Manager. This led to the creation of an integrated management structure which promoted an ethos of working together to deliver targeted youth support to those young people in greatest need and who present the highest likelihood of engaging in anti-social behaviour and youth offending. Since this time a phased re-structure has taken place to establish the Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service on 1/01/16. Staff and unions were consulted in relation to both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the re-structuring process:

Phase 1: achieved the appointment of a Principal Youth Support Service Manager (in October 2015) to oversee the Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service from 1/01/16.

Phase 2: achieved the appointment of 4 Youth Support Managers responsible for the management of 4 teams across the Youth Support Service from 1/02/16.

Vision

'A service that provides a robust range of support from open access to specialized support, enabling children, young people, young adults (aged 8-25 years) to access *what* they need, *when* and *where* they need it so that they can reach their full personal, social and educational potential.'

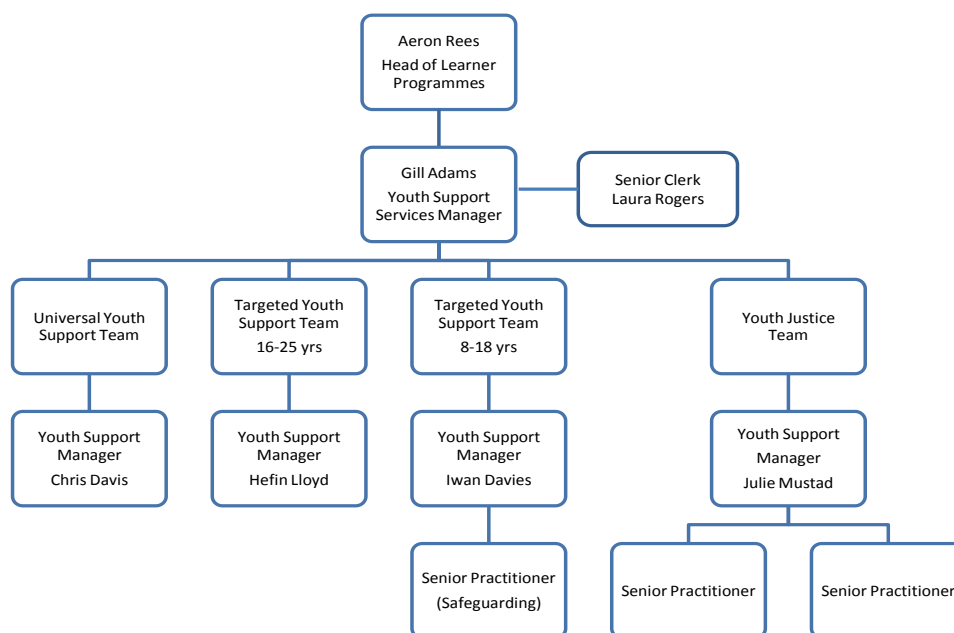
Core Values

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service:

- is innovative and creative in its service delivery
- contributes to the Welsh Government priority of reducing poverty
- utilises restorative approaches within its practice

- promotes inclusion and participation of children and young people
- has a well-trained, skilled and supported workforce, able to offer a range of services in Welsh and English
- has a team of trained, skilled volunteers (parenting; Referral Order Panellists; mentors; parent mentors; Duke of Edinburgh's Award provision)
- engages with families and carers for better outcomes.

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service Management Structure



Youth Clubs, positive and diversionary activities including D of E

Community Outreach and Post 16 Youth Work including TAF 16-25

Prevention work, school and college based Youth Work TAF 11-16

All statutory Youth Justice functions

Universal Support Team:

= 8 members of staff; 18 Youth Club Staff; 16 volunteers

Targeted Youth Support Team (16-25 yrs):

= 11 members of staff

Targeted Youth Support Team (8-18 yrs)

= 21 members of staff

Youth Justice Team

= 16 members of staff; 8 volunteers

Priorities:

The following Youth Support Service Priorities emerged out of a workshop involving key members of management and staff held in November 2015.

1. **To encourage children and young people to access universal youth work provision**

Via:

- Youth Club provision.
- Constructive activities.
- Holiday activities & programmes.
- Links with other youth organisations.
- Access to Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

2. To support young people to access appropriate health and wellbeing services

Via:

- Access to substance misuse services.
- Access to primary; secondary and other specialist health/ mental health services e.g. Iechyd Da/Youth Health Team; CAMHS.

3. To support educational attendance and attainment:

- Reducing the number of school leavers without qualifications.
- Reducing the number of children and young people at risk of becoming 'Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- Supporting children, young people and young adults who are NEET back into Education, Employment, and Training.

Via:

- Families First Projects.
- TAF approach.
- Youth Engagement and Progression Framework (intervention; Vulnerability Assessment Profile; brokerage; tracking; provision; training and employment)
- 1:1 work with children; young people and young adults.
- Links with stakeholders - Careers Wales; schools; colleges; specialist provision; EOTAS.
- Provision of ASDAN; OCN and accredited qualifications.
- Group work and targeted projects.

4. Safeguarding children young people and young adults

Via:

- Appropriate assessment routes and referral mechanisms.
- Youth Support Service engagement in county wide/regional provision/systems - to ensure that children and young people are kept safe.
- Delivery of targeted preventative work with those children, young people and young adults who are identified as being vulnerable to abuse; exploitation and other risks from others, including radicalisation.

5. Diversion of children and young people away from the criminal justice system

Via:

Carmarthenshire Bureau which delivers the provision of 'Out of Court Disposals' (Community Resolutions; Youth Cautions) in partnership with Dyfed Powys Police.

6. Prevention of offending and re-offending by children and young people

Via:

- Accepting referrals for targeted prevention and anti-social behaviour work.
- Services to courts and Referral Order Panels.
- Delivery of criminal justice duties.
- Provision of assessments in relation to children and young people.
- Provision of bespoke intervention packages linked to assessed risk and need.
- Reviewing the progress of children and young people, including involvement of parents can carers.
- Management of assessed risk and vulnerability in relation to children and young people.
- Links with National Probation Service for transition of appropriate cases in line with 'Youth 2 Adult Transitions' (17+ years).
- Remand management planning.
- Sentence planning/management.

Delivery of Youth Support Services

Services to children, young people and young adults are delivered by 4 teams:

- Universal Support Team
- Targeted Youth Support Team (16-25 years)
- Targeted Youth Support Team (8-18 years)
- Youth Justice Team

Each team is responsible for some unique areas of delivery, however it is essential that all teams link together in order to maximise opportunities to deliver high quality services to children, young people and young adults within Carmarthenshire.

Universal Support Team

Responsible for the delivery of open access provision including; adventurous outdoor activity; youth clubs; the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; programmes of accredited learning; delivery of activities to support community safety and reduce anti-social behaviour; co-ordination of staff training; support for young people's participation in decisions that affect them; residential programmes for young people both in the UK and abroad.

Targeted Youth Support Team (16-25 years)

Detached, outreach youth work provision in the community funded by Welsh Government Families First programme to meet the requirements of developing Team around the Family approaches and the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.

Targeted Youth Support (8-18years)

School-based youth workers based in all Carmarthenshire secondary schools and Coleg Sir Gar, funded by Welsh Government Families First to meet the requirements of developing Team Around the Family approaches and the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.

Prevention workers within the team assess children and young people; deliver intervention programmes and work with a range of organisations to reduce youth crime, support community safety and reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Youth Support Service is increasingly working regionally with the other Youth Offending Teams/Services in the Dyfed-Powys region to ensure that youth crime prevention is aligned with the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Youth Justice Board and the Welsh Government.

Youth Justice Team ('YOT'*)

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service retains its statutory 'Youth Offending Team' function, being a multi-agency partnership which draws resources from the Local Authority, Dyfed Powys Police, National Probation Service and Hywel Dda University Health Board with the principal aim of preventing youth offending. A number of grant funding streams supplement the resources contributed by statutory partners. The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales monitors the performance of all Youth Offending Teams in Wales against seven performance indicators:

- re-offending rates
- number of first time entrants
- custodial sentences
- young people's access to substance misuse assessment and treatment
- young people's access to suitable accommodation
- young people's access to education, training or employment
- young people's access to emotional and mental health assessment and treatment.

(*YOT is a generic term and the name given to teams can vary from area to area)

Within Carmarthenshire, the Youth Justice Team works with approximately 100-120 young people under 18 years, at any given time, who have offended and who are subject to Community Resolutions; Youth Cautions; community sentences and custodial sentences. Work undertaken can be varied and will often include specialist interventions. Central to the work is a focus on the impact of offending upon victims and the community. Young people are helped and encouraged to understand the consequences of their offending via the delivery of restorative approaches.

The Youth Support Service has a well established Substance Misuse Service located within the Youth Justice Team. The service works to agreed action plan and is due to produce its annual report in April 2016.

Conclusion

Since 1/0/1/16, a number of critical milestones have been achieved in a short space of time to establish the Youth Support Service Management structure. The vision, values

and priorities for the service have been agreed, and a business plan for the service is being drawn together for 2016/17. The service will continue to build upon some very positive achievements in 2015/16; and will seek to continue with a number of other developments:

- From 1/4/15 to 17/3/16 young people in Carmarthenshire gained 640 Duke of Edinburgh's Awards (Bronze : 500; Silver:101; Gold: 39). 1003 young people are enrolled to take up the award in 2016/17. Two very successful celebration events were organised to recognise the achievements of the young people receiving their awards in 2015/16.
- The Youth Support Service continues to be one of 4 test sites in Wales selected by the Youth Justice Board for the delivery of an Enhanced Case Management approach. The aims of the approach are firstly, to provide practitioners and managers with increased knowledge and understanding in relation to how early attachment, trauma and adverse life events can impact on a young person's ability to engage effectively in youth justice interventions. Secondly, to provide a psychology-led approach to multi-agency case formulation and intervention planning. This work is making a significant contribution to enabling staff to tailor and sequence interventions more effectively according to the developmental and mental health needs of individual young people.
- The Youth Support Service Substance Misuse provision continues to participate in a Welsh Government Substance Misuse Outcome Monitoring Pilot. This requires reporting information to Welsh Government using a Young Person's Outcome Tool. This first pilot ended in February 2016 with a second phase planned for June 2016.
- There is on-going development of partnership working within Carmarthenshire to support young people into employment, education and training under the implementation of the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework.
- Since 2006/7 the number of children/young people convicted or cautioned has fallen in England and Wales by 77% and the number of young people entering the justice system for the first time (referred to as First Time Entrants) is down 81%. As a result the number of children in custody has declined by 64% and is now at its lowest recorded level.
- These national trends are also reflected locally. Within Carmarthenshire, First Time Entrants have fallen from 410 (April 2006/7) to 49 (April 2014/ March 2015). There has been a 50.6% decrease in First Time Entrants when comparing July to June 2013/14 against July to June 2014/15. This is in comparison with a 52.0% decrease in Dyfed Powys and a 25.1% decrease across Wales. A full analysis of performance against Youth Justice Board performance indicators for 2015/16 will be available in May 2016.

Challenges and opportunities:

- It is widely understood that children/young people who remain in the youth justice system are those that display the most challenging and ingrained behaviour and have the most complex needs. In Carmarthenshire work is being undertaken to respond to this challenge through the provision of effective evidence based practice designed to address risks and meet need. This work requires a wider partnership approach within the county to effect positive change through ongoing collaboration with Children's Services colleagues, education, health and accommodation providers.
- The Youth Support Service is very well placed to ensure that its 2 Families First funded projects are central to the delivery of targeted prevention work to improve a range of outcomes for children, young people young adults and their families.
- Diversion of children away from the criminal justice system via Bureau in partnership with the police also allows for children and young people to reflect upon their behaviour and allows for appropriate levels of early intervention designed to reduce risk offending.
- Finally, opportunities exist to develop a menu of programmes and activities through the Universal Support Team and other youth organisations and clubs which will encourage participation and inclusion of children, young people and young adults across Carmarthenshire.

Since January 2016, the Youth Support Service management group has maintained a strong focus upon embedding the vision, core values and priorities of the service. Communication with all Youth Support Service staff in these early days is central to the future success of the service. Newly appointed managers have met with their teams and a Service Development session is planned in June 2016 which provides an opportunity to bring staff together to promote a good understanding of the various roles and functions of each team in contributing to the future success of the service as a whole.

Appendix 1

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Acronym and Jargon Buster Update October 2014

Acronym / Term	Meaning
14-19 Learning Pathways	Welsh Assembly Government strategy to wide course choice, opportunity and achievement for young people aged 14-19
14-19 Networks	The local authority area partnership of schools colleges, training providers and LEA delivering the 14-19 Learning Pathways strategy
14-19 Measure	Welsh Assembly Government legislation that prescribes the number of course choices schools and colleges must provide to 14-16 and 16-19 year olds
ADEW	Association of Directors of Education Wales
Awarding Organisations	Bodies that are officially recognised to offer qualifications, allowing learning providers with good quality systems to provide accredited courses e.g. Agored Cymru (previously known as OCN), City & Guilds, WJEC.
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
Careers Wales	Welsh Government body offering careers advice and guidance to young people
Communities First	WG programme to reduce poverty in the most deprived communities in Wales
CSG	Coleg Sir Gâr – Carmarthenshire's Further Education College
CYC	County Youth Council – representative group for young people
CYPP	Children and Young People's Partnership – body overseeing delivery of education and youth support services for young people aged 11-25
CPD	Continuous professional development – keeping staff skills and knowledge up to date
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DfES	Welsh Government department for Education & Skills (responsible for education policy)
DofE	Duke of Edinburgh's Award
EOTAS	Educated other than at school – children and young people of statutory age who are not attending mainstream state schools but are accessing education delivered by the local authority (e.g. pupil referral units, home tuition, alternative education provision)
EHE	Elective Home Education – children and young people being educated at home by their parents following parental decisions not to educate their children in state schools
EPC	Engagement & Progression Co-ordinator – key LA contact for delivering the YEPF (see below)
ERW	Regional school improvement partnership for the 6 south west and mid Wales Local Authorities (Ceredigion, Powys, NPT, Swansea, Pembrokeshire & Carmarthenshire)
ESDGC	Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship
ESF	European Social Fund – EU funding scheme to address social inequalities
Estyn	Inspection body overseeing compliance to WG learning policy and delivery requirements
Essential Skills	The Welsh Government term for basic skills (literacy and numeracy)
Extending Entitlement	WG policy for support services for young people aged 11-25
Families First	Welsh Government policy and grant to lift families out of poverty
<i>Fforwm</i>	Mid and west Wales partnership of schools and FE delivering collaborative Welsh Medium courses
FE	Further education – post 16 college e.g. Coleg Sir Gâr (previously known as CCTA)
Gwirvol	WG volunteering programme for young people
HE	Higher education – e.g. Trinity St David University, Swansea University
<i>hwb</i>	The Welsh schools virtual learning environment – an on-line location for

	teaching resources and information relating to teaching and learning
ICT	Information and communications technology – computers, software and hardware
Integrated Community Strategy	LA partnership plan to address key social and economic priorities for the County
IO	Careers Wales database of young people aged 16-19 and their current status
Job Centre Plus	Westminster Government agency administering a variety of benefit payments
Key Skills	Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, working with others, problem solving and improving performance
LA	Local Authority
LLWR	Welsh Assembly Government's learner and funding database
MEP	Modernising Education Programme
MIS	Management information system – computer database storing information on courses and learners
NEET	Not in employment, education or training – a classification for young people aged 16-25 not deemed by government to be engaged in productive activity
NPFS	National Planning & Funding System – WG programme for funding of post 16 learning
NSLA	National Learning and Skills Assessment
<i>Partneriaeth</i>	Carmarthenshire partnership of Welsh Medium Secondary Schools
PBB	Priority Based Budgeting – the on-going programme of corporate budget cuts within CCC
QIP	Quality Improvement Plan
RLP	Regional Learning Partnership – partnership of SW Wales Learning and Regeneration Organisations
RNDP	Regional 14-19 Network Development Plan (replaces the 6 south west and mid Wales ANDPs from April 2012)
RLSO	Regional Learning and Skills Observatory – website with local labour market information
SBCS	School Based Counselling Service
SBIG	Schools Buildings Effectiveness Grant
SEG	School Effectiveness Grant
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEF	School Effectiveness Framework – WG Model to improve school performance
SWWITCH	South West Wales Integrated Transport Partnership
VAP	Vulnerability Assessment Profile – a spreadsheet used to identify young people at risk of becoming NEET based on young people's attendance, achievement and behaviour
WAO	Wales Audit Office
WEG	Welsh in Education Grant
Welsh Baccalaureate	An officially accredited and established qualification delivered by schools, colleges and training providers across Wales that gives broader experiences than traditional learning programmes and develops transferable skills useful for higher education and employment.
WG	Welsh Government
WLGA	Welsh Local Government Association
WJEC	Welsh Examination and Qualifications Awarding Body
YEPF	Youth Engagement & Progression Framework – WG NEET reduction strategy
YOPS	Youth Offending and Prevention Service
YOT	Youth Offending Team
YSS	Youth Support Service

This page is left blank intentionally.

Appendix 2

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group 2013/14 Review of the Youth Service Youth Club Provision

Implementation Plan Update – March 2016

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
1.	The provision of youth clubs is valued and the limited existing expenditure should be protected going forward however a new, innovative strategic approach to Carmarthenshire youth clubs is required that takes into consideration best practice identified in some clubs, the local needs of young people and encourages greater involvement by community groups and the voluntary sector.	To consult with young people to find best practice and if their needs are being met.	TG/MM	October '13	<p>Consultation completed</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> Existing and commissioned provision is to continue to be funded via the Youth Support Service core budget for the 2016/2017.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
2.	<p>Prioritise increasing the delivery through the medium of Welsh as part of the new strategic approach by commissioning some organisations, such as the Carmarthenshire Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs and the Urdd, to provide open access youth work through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Following an open tender process for the delivery of Welsh medium youth clubs, two organisations have been externally procured. Whitehead-Ross won the tender to deliver in Llandeilo and a consortium made up of the Urdd and the three Mentrau won the tenders for Llanelli, Ammanford and Carmarthen.</p>	TG	<p>Delivery is ongoing. Contracts are in place until March 31st 2015.</p>	<p><u>Update March 2016:</u> Due to low number of attendees, Whitehead Ross did not have a contract renewal following Summer Term 2015.</p> <p>Due to ongoing success and high number of attendees the Urdd will continue to provide a youth club service up to 31st March 2017.</p> <p>The Youth Support Service has committed £10,000 to the provision of youth clubs namely: Y Lle (Llanelli); Streets (Ammanford) and Yr Atom (Carmarthen) for 2016/17.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
3.	Base provision going forward on key principles of youth club provision and a “mixed economy” of provision by the County Council Youth Service and a range of voluntary sector or groups with a Four Tier Model of youth club provision as detailed in section 6 (page 16) of this report.	To consider how to enable different levels of provision based on priority, while accommodating the necessary budget cuts.	MM/CJD	April '15.	<p><u>Update March 2016:</u> 9 CCC youth clubs operate within Carmarthenshire (Llangennech, Burry Port, Kidwelly, Tycroes, Cwmaman, Hendy, Llandovery, Llandybie, Streets (Ammanford). It is proposed that this provision is funded via the Youth Support Service core budget for 2016/2017.</p> <p>Due to poor attendance 2 youth clubs, namely Felinfoel and Llansaint closed during 2015/16. Additional staffing support is provided to 1 voluntary run youth club (Valley Teens)</p> <p>A financial contribution of £7,000 was provided to Dr Mz during 2015/16 towards youth club provision within Carmarthen town. It is proposed that this financial contribution will apply for 2016/17.</p>

Following the closure of the

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
4.	Promote the role of the Carmarthenshire Local Service Board and Children and Young People's Partnership as the accountable bodies overseeing provision and tackling duplication of provision identified (e.g. through formal approval of external funding bids for projects to support young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training).	<p>Raise the profile of youth clubs and the impact of their role on vulnerable young people at LSB and CYPP level.</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> The Carmarthenshire Local Service Board commissioned a full review of all Strategic Partnerships during October 2014. This review considered all existing structures to ensure that the newly established Public Service Board (effective from April 2016) is fit for purpose and has a supporting structure that will enable it to deliver the outcomes appropriate for the people of Carmarthenshire.</p>	MM/CJD	April '15	<p><u>Update March 2016:</u> YSS will sit within the Fair and Safe Communities Thematic Group under the Public Service Board. The Universal Youth Support Team Manager will continue to lead on the agreed action.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
5.	Consider ways to avoid duplication going forward and develop the provision taking into account the needs of young people in communities through consultation with young people, local communities, town and community councils and existing voluntary sector providers.	<p>To undertake a mapping exercise of existing youth club provision.</p> <p>Consultations on youth club provision took place in the Summer of 2013.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>TG</p>	<p>Mapping complete March 2014</p> <p>Consultation completed in October 2013.</p>	<p>A mapping exercise was used to inform Welsh medium youth club locations. The Welsh medium youth club tender specification was shaped by feedback from the consultations.</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> The Youth Support Service has established links with Welsh Medium youth club provision (Urdd) and other independent youth club provision, such as Dr Mz. This will assist in avoiding duplication as well as plugging potential gaps in provision in accordance with identified need.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
6.	Build upon the strengths of current delivery to develop tender and commissioning specifications to ensure that youth club provision meets needs within communities across the county and offers the opportunity for voluntary sector and community groups to bid to deliver this provision.	To use consultation feedback to shape tender specifications for commissioning new Welsh medium youth clubs.	TG	Oct '14.	<p>Consultation feedback was instrumental in shaping the Welsh medium youth club tender specification and the subsequent commissioning of provision.</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> Welsh medium youth club provision continues to be supported in 2016/17 and links already established will be built upon.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
7.	Review and clarify existing staff structures and line management responsibilities, with one named officer being responsible for all youth club provision in the county, within existing resources.	To re-structure the youth service.	MM MM/CJD	June '14. April '15.	<p>The Youth Service was subject to a re-structure in 2014 with a Principal Youth Officer (CJD) appointed and a Senior Youth Officer (HT) responsible for youth club provision across the County.</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> Following the establishment of the Youth Support Service on 1/1/16, an Universal Youth Support Team Manager (CD) has been appointed to oversee youth club provision within Carmarthenshire. A further thorough review of progress to date with respect to the youth club provision recommendations will be instigated as part of the proposed 360° evaluation of YSS, which will report in late Autumn 2016.</p>

No.	Recommendation	Actions	Responsible Officer(s)	Target Completion Date	Progress
8.	Develop a central set of resources including a youth club development toolkit to support and sustain voluntary and community groups in delivering youth club provision across the county as detailed in section 6 (Page 17) of this report.	To develop a set of resources to support voluntary and community groups in youth club set up and sustainability.	CJD/HT	March '15.	<p>This work is in development and pending the full implementation of the new youth service structure.</p> <p><u>Update March 2016:</u> This work will be taken forward by the Universal Youth Support Team Manager in 2016/17.</p>
9.	Implement the proposed implementation plan including commissioning of some voluntary sector youth club provision by September 2014 as detailed in section 7 (Page 17) of this report.	Addressing the recommendations based on priority, while accommodating the necessary budget cuts.	MM	July '15	<p><u>Update March 2016:</u> The following Youth Clubs are operating within the county: 9 County Council Youth Clubs ; 3 Urdd Youth Clubs; Valley Teens; Dr Mz.</p>
10.	Consider funding all or part the universal aspect of youth club provision from the Welsh Government's Youth Work Strategy Support Grant which is ring-fenced to support youth work, including open access provision.	Addressing the recommendations based on priority, while accommodating the necessary budget cuts	MM	March '15.	<p><u>Update March 2016:</u> It is proposed that this work will be funded from the core youth service budget for 2016/17.</p>