

Education & Children Scrutiny Committee

11th June, 2021

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service – Update

Purpose: *Education and Children Scrutiny Committee have requested an update on this area of service delivery*

To consider and comment on the following issues:

The Youth Support Service response during the COVID-19 pandemic, together with relevant background information.

Reasons:

For the Committee to properly exercise its scrutiny function on areas of particular interest to Elected Members. Scrutiny Committee can also assist in identifying improvements in service delivery.

To be referred to the Executive Board / Council for decision: NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr Glynog Davies EBD for Education and Children's Services

Directorate: Education and Children's Services

Name of Head of Service:

Aeron Rees

Report Author:

Gill Adams

Designations:

Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Education & Children Scrutiny Committee
11th June, 2021

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service - Update

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service

Carmarthenshire Youth Support Service brings together youth work and youth justice statutory provision under a single management structure. The Service allows for the development of a holistic approach to the delivery of youth support services across Carmarthenshire.

The Youth Support Service has sought to maintain consistent delivery of services and to be flexible and responsive to the needs of children and young people during the pandemic. The YSS Management Group has collaborated to ensure that staffing resources have been effectively managed and allocated, and this has included assisting with the staffing of school hubs; some staff were also directed to assist with food delivery duties.

The Service also has adapted policy and practice to be able continue to deliver services under relevant COVID-19 guidance. This has included use of door-stepping/garden visits as required across the service; better use of technology (Facebook; Instagram; phone call and text) was supported by staff being provided with smart phones.

A Youth Justice Contingency Plan and a Youth Justice Recovery Plan were produced in line with Youth Justice Board requirements during 2020. Additionally, the YSS Principal Manager attended a meeting with Estyn Local Authority Link Inspectors to discuss youth work delivery during COVID-19.

There has been an emphasis on the identification of vulnerable children and young people during the period, so that they can be offered appropriate guidance and support whether from the service or via onward referral/signposting. Safeguarding has remained of paramount importance and there has been good partnership working with Social Services, Health and Education. Reporting of performance against funding streams has continued as usual and staff have continued to receive an excellent range of training and Continuous Professional Development opportunities to maintain and develop a skilled workforce.

Non-school based staff have mainly worked from home during the period however, elements service delivery, such as youth justice duties, have included necessary attendance at court and at the police station. Staff have worked with managers to identify essential aspects of service delivery which has included checking in with children, young people and families, transporting children and young people to essential appointments, assisting with housing etc.

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: *J. Aeron Rees*

Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: *J. Aeron Rees*

Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

1. Local Member(s) - N/A
2. Community / Town Council - N/A
3. Relevant Partners - N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	YES
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE