

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION CABINET BOARD**

**22 OCTOBER 2015**

**REPORT OF HEAD OF PARTICIPATION**  
**CHRIS MILLIS**

**Matter for Information**

**Wards Affected:** All

**Review of Youth Club Provision**

**Purpose of the Report**

To update Members on the current youth club provision and mapping exercise.

**Executive Summary**

To update on progress implementing the approved changes to the current allocation of youth clubs to enable continuity of the service within the context of current budget limitations.

**Background**

The Council required the Youth Service to make savings of £100k to its core budget during 2015/16. This is in addition to £42k already identified as part of the Forward Financial Plan. As part of the measures to enable the Youth Service to meet this requirement it was necessary to change the way it provided community based youth clubs. During the month of November 2014 the service undertook a consultation exercise on the future of youth club provision and has recently carried out further consultation with young people from 28 of the 42 wards.

**Consultation and progress**

The purpose of the consultation in November was to enable the Council to assess the potential future operation of all youth club provision. The consultation was designed to collect information and opinion on how best to maintain or improve provision for young people whilst also

realising the increased efficiency and cost savings needed. Proposals to secure cost savings included:

- Reducing the annual number of weeks open from 30 to 28 weeks;
- Reducing staffing levels where clubs that are carrying vacancies but are able to adequately maintain provision with a smaller team;
- Reducing the number of nights open in clubs that open more than one night per week;
- Identifying alternative models of delivery including other sources of funding. The option of closure was also a consideration.

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Board also requested that the Youth Service carry out a mapping exercise to identify where current youth club provisions are across the authority.

### **Progress on implementing the agreed proposals**

A summary of how the changes agreed have progressed within the current youth club provisions can be found in Appendix A.

### **Further Consultation**

The purpose of the further consultation was to gain the views of young people on youth provision in their communities.

### **Methodology**

Questionnaires were prepared for young people which were completed by the young people in their communities. Young people were also able to access the questionnaire using Survey Monkey. The questionnaires were placed on a variety of internet and social media sites including Neath Port Talbot Youth Service, Neath Port Talbot Youth Service Facebook and Twitter.

Youth Workers consulted with young people in their communities using paper based questionnaires. Young people accessing the current youth clubs and youth council were also asked to complete the questionnaire.

### **Consultation Responses**

274 young people responded to questionnaire. A summary of responses to the questionnaire can be found below. Please see Appendix B for a full breakdown of responses to all questions.

## 1. Feeling safe in your area.

Young people were asked to give their views on how safe they felt the areas they live in are with 26.3% stating very safe, 64.9% quite safe, 7.3% fairly safe and 1.4% stating their area felt very unsafe. Although the number of young people who stated that they felt their areas were very unsafe was very low, they will be contacted to discuss their issues further.

## 2. Public transport.

Young people were asked to give their views on public transport in the areas they live. The results showed that 33.9% felt public transport was very good, 53.2% felt it was adequate, 10.2% felt it was poor and 2.5% felt that it was very poor. This data will be interrogated further to find out if there are any specific geographical issues.

## 3. Concerns about crime.

Young people were asked what crimes and issues concern them the most in their areas with the top 3 responses being, illegal drug use 51%, bullying 49.6% and vandalism 45.2%.

## 4. Help & support

Young people were asked to let us know where they go for help and support with most young people stating parents. Other responses included family members, friends, teachers and youth workers. But the most worrying response here was that 40 young people stated that they keep things to themselves. This will need to be handled with sensitivity but where possible we will attempt to reach out to these individuals.

## 5. What would you like in your community?

We asked young people to select a maximum of 4 things that they would like in their communities from a set menu. The top 4 responses were a sheltered place outside for young people (118 responses), park or playing fields (113 responses) and Skate Park (112 responses) and more space for outdoor activities (101 responses).

## 6. Other activities.

Young people were asked if they take part in any other activities on a weekly basis with 67% stating that they did and 33% stating that they didn't take part in any other weekly activities. Examples of these activities include sports clubs, music, dance and swimming.

## 7. What else is in your area?

Young people were asked what else is available for young people in their area with the most popular responses being, nothing or unsure 114 responses, sports & social activities 78 responses, parks & playing fields 48 responses and youth clubs with 34 responses.

## 8. Have you been to a youth club?

We asked young people to tell us if they have been to a youth club and if so where and if they had not why not. 50.36% had been to a youth club with 49.64% stating they had not been to a youth club. The main reasons for not attending youth clubs were they were unsure or it didn't appeal to them with 56 responses, did not know if there is a club 29 responses, other commitments 26 responses and no youth club near me 25 responses.

## 9. Attending a youth club.

Young people were asked how many times a week they would attend a youth club or project with 68% stating that they would attend a club once a week or more and 32% stating either once every two weeks or less than once every two weeks. The most popular answer was less than once every two weeks with 28.47% of the votes.

## 10. What is important?

We asked young people their views on how important they felt about a range of topics ranging from 'a place to have fun' to 'being taken seriously'. The topics that scored highest in what young people thought was most important were a safe place to meet, being taken seriously and a place to have fun.

## 11. Information and advice

We asked young people if they had access to the information and advice that they needed with 72.6% of young people stating yes and 27.3% stating no. Similar to other finding throughout this consultation this will need further investigation.

## 12. Changes in their communities.

We asked young people to list the changes that they would like seen in their communities. The most popular answers were nothing 110 responses, place to go, and improvements to amenities 83 responses,

better transport, less crime, safer area 47 responses and more things to do 26 responses.

The consultation carried out with young people in their communities has been very time consuming for a reduced team but the youth workers have found it a very worthwhile experience and one that they hope to continue on a more regular basis. It has given the Youth Service the opportunity to go out to communities that we would not normally work in and talk to young people who we wouldn't normally come into contact with.

### **Current Mapping Exercise**

Along with the Survey Monkey and consultation process and as mentioned above the Youth Service visited 28 of the 42 wards to engage with young people using detached youth work and to also look what was in the areas.

A summary of the findings can be found in Appendix C

### **Ongoing Changes**

In order to minimise the reduction in provision to young people, savings have been realised by reducing the cost of staff meetings. The Youth Clubs Pre-term Meetings have been reduced from 3 hours to 2 hours. They continue to be held 3 times per year. The Worker in Charge Meetings have been reduced from 6 hours to 3 hours. They continue to be held 3 times per year. Further developments to this include a reduced training budget for 2016/17.

### **Mapping of Vulnerable Young People**

The Youth Service has looked at the Vulnerable Assessment Profile system used by the schools and the Team Around the Family to give a score to young people on how vulnerable they may be.

The findings show that the youth clubs work with young people scored most at risk and given a red status in all areas. Please see Appendix D for the full table.

## **Current Youth Club Provision Attendance Data**

Appendix E shows that some clubs are struggling to attract young people to their provision with Bryn and Glyncorwg having an average attendance of 10 or less. Other clubs are attracting large numbers such as Taibach and Sandfields with an average of 53 young people attending Taibach every night and 38 Sandfields. At the start of this term on the first night open Taibach had approximately 60 young people attend.

## **Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivations**

The Youth Service carried out a mapping exercise to find out if our clubs operate in some of the most deprived areas within Neath and Port Talbot. With our findings showing that Aberavon, Cymmer, Gwynfi, Neath East and Sandfields West having the highest proportion of deprived Lower Super Output Areas according to the Welsh Index Multiple Deprivations (WIMD). We currently run youth clubs in 3 of these areas namely Cymmer, Blaengwynfi and Sandfields. The other 2 wards are served by non-statutory youth provisions.

## **Population Data**

We also wanted to find out if our youth clubs were operating out of the most densely populated areas for 10 – 24 year olds. The findings on this showed that the top 5 most heavily populated areas were, Sandfields West (1,342 young people aged 10-24), Sandfields East (1,228), Bryn & Cwmavon (1,155), Neath East (1,136) and Baglan (1,038). We currently provide youth club provision in 2 of these wards namely Sandfields and Bryn Youth Clubs. All the other wards have alternative youth provision. Our findings would suggest that the provision in Bryn may be in the wrong location.

## **Financial Impact**

There are no financial impacts in relation to this report.

## **Equality Impact Assessment**

Equality Impact Assessments have not been carried out for the purpose of this report.

## **Workforce Impacts**

There are no workforce implications.

## **Legal Impacts**

There are no legal implications.

## **Risk Management**

No requirement for risk assessment.

## **Consultation**

Please see Appendix B.

## **Recommendations**

Item for information only.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A - Changes to current youth club provision

Appendix B - Community Profile Questionnaire

Appendix C - Community Profile Reports

Appendix D - Vulnerable Assessment Profile Mapping

Appendix E - WIMD & Population Data

## **Officer Contact**

Chris Millis Head of Participation

Telephone 01639 763226, email [c.d.millis@npt.gov.uk](mailto:c.d.millis@npt.gov.uk)

Neil Thomas Participation Co-Ordinator,

Telephone 01639 686376, email [n.g.thomas@npt.gov.uk](mailto:n.g.thomas@npt.gov.uk)

Jason Haeney Principal Youth Officer

Telephone 01792 32672, email [j.haeney@npt.gov.uk](mailto:j.haeney@npt.gov.uk)