



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH Port Talbot COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Education Skills and Culture Cabinet Board**

**22<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

### **Report of the Head of Participation Chris Millis**

#### **Matter for Monitoring**

#### **Wards Affected:**

All Wards

**Report Title:** Youth Service Update

#### **Purpose of the Report:**

To provide Members with an update on the Local Authority Youth Service.

#### **Executive Summary:**

Neath Port Talbot Youth Service provides Youth Work support to over five thousand young people within Neath Port Talbot. This is carried out by 33 full time and 71 part time staff using a range of provision.

The service is heavily dependent on external grants with 71% of its funding coming in from a range of sources, this has led to a shift away from open access services to a more targeted youth work offer.

Community based youth clubs have supported just over 1,000 young people during 2018/19 through 12 youth clubs. These clubs provide young people with educational, social and recreational activities as well as giving young people access to youth work advice and support.

The more targeted youth work offer focuses on vulnerable young people and youth workers engage with these young people on a one to one basis and also using group work.

Targeted youth work support is offered to Young Carers, LGBTQ+ young people, young people with speech, language and communication needs, Caseload young people from Early Intervention Panel, young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), Young people who are struggling in schools, young people with emerging mental health issues such as loneliness and social isolation and young people who are at risk of homelessness.

The youth service continue to run a very successful Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme with over 400 young people gaining the award annually.

The youth service also offers young people relationship and sexuality advice both within schools and in their communities. This is delivered through youth workers who are also trained in sexual health.

The youth service has had a good year with helping young people gain outcomes with 666 young people gaining a nationally recognised award. This equates to 13% of young people who have accessed the service which is above the welsh average of 10%.

The youth service also supports the Youth Council who provide opportunities for young people to have a say a matters and issues that impact on their lives. The Youth Council won the 2018 Youth Excellence Award for promoting children's rights and helped support the Youth Service in gaining the National Participation Kitemark in 2019.

### **Background:**

Neath Port Talbot Youth Service currently employs 33 full time staff and 71 part time staff and volunteers to deliver a range of supportive and educational activities to young people aged 11-25. Please see the Youth Service Structure attached (Appendix 1).

Neath Port Talbot Youth Service sets out in its Vision to encourage and enable young people to have fun, participate in all opportunities available to them and to gain the skills needed to become happy, confident and fulfilled adults and members of their communities. This is backed up by the service

Mission Statement to deliver good quality learning, social and recreational opportunities and activities through highly motivated, well trained and enthusiastic youth workers in safe and friendly places accessible to all young people.

There has been a shift towards more targeted Youth Work within Neath Port Talbot which has come from external funding sources. During 2018/19 grant funding equated to 65% of the Youth Service budget and this increased for the 2019/20 financial year with 71% of the Youth Service budget coming from external grants.

### **Youth Service Provision**

The Youth Service currently has contact with 22% of 11-25 year olds (5,308 young people) within Neath Port Talbot through a mix of universal, targeted and specialist provision. This is above the Welsh average of 15% and places us with the 8<sup>th</sup> highest percentage of members in Wales.

### **Youth Clubs:**

Neath Port Talbot Youth Service delivers youth work to young people aged 11-18 via 12 community based youth clubs. These clubs are situated in *Blaengwynfi, Bryn, Croeserw, Cymmer, Sandfields, Taibach, Bryncoch, Cimla, Crynant, Cwmllynfell, Glynneath and Seven Sisters.*

Youth club provision is mainly located in areas of high deprivation but not always in those areas that have the highest numbers of young people or those with the greatest concentration of young people.

There are currently 12 community based youth clubs geographically spread throughout the local authority in a number of community settings for example; schools, community centres and or buildings [see appendix 2]. They each vary in relation to the number of nightly sessions and opening times offered to young people. Attendance can fluctuate, with the highest attendance at Taibach youth club and the lowest at Bryn & Cimla youth clubs. During 2018/19 the number of young people attending our youth clubs equate to 1080 [472 Female and 508 Male] [see appendix 3].

There are at least 4 youth workers in attendance in each night with, one worker in charge who is responsible for the operational, supervision and management of the youth club. The other staff work with young people to provide and develop opportunities and activities that foster learning and

that respond to young people's needs. Youth clubs plan deliver and evaluate their work systematically, measure outcomes achieved with young people.

Outcomes include accreditation programmes, Millennium Volunteer Junior Leaderships Awards and certification of achievements that provide recognition of young people's learning in relation to our curriculum framework. Young people are also offered an opportunity to engage in a number of trips and events throughout the year that not only celebrate their achievements but encourage new cultural learning.

Issues impacting on our community based youth clubs range from a reduction in numbers/footfall, staffing pressures due to recruitment issues and reduced finances within the context of current budget limitations. Additionally there are added pressure on practitioners who are now having to work with young people who present complex health issues although not exhaustive they include; self-harm, sexuality and relationships issues.

Third Sector Youth Clubs are also supported by Neath Port Talbot Youth Service through various offers including training, sharing of procedures and paperwork, invitation to participate in activities and events and where possible funding.

### ***Targeted provision:***

Targeted provision is much more focused and can be aimed at specific groups of young people with particular needs such as NEETs or targeted due to certain characteristics such as young carers, LGBTQ+ or Speech and Language. This provision is funded through a variety of external sources including, WG Youth Support Grant, Families First, ESF Grant and Communities First Legacy Grant. Each funding stream has its own requirements and is subject to change dependent on the direction of the funding provider:

### **Families First:**

Focuses on 3 main areas:

- Caseloads.
- Vulnerable Groups
- Young Carers

Youth workers focus on early intervention and prevention activities for young people. Caseloads are allocated via the Early Intervention and

Prevention Panel. Vulnerable groups supported at present are the LGBT group, Speech, Language & Communication group and finally the Young Carers Club. Through Families First youth work interventions 25 Young people demonstrate an improvement in their speech, language and communication skills:

25 young people, 168 Young people demonstrate an improvement in emotional/mental wellbeing, 151 young people report an improvement in own resilience, 98 families that report an improvement in family resilience and 103 young people that report improved family relationships.

### **Welsh Government Youth Support Grant:**

Focus on 3 main areas:

NEET young people aged 16-25;

Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing;

Youth Work support for at risk of Homelessness young people.

### **NEET Support:**

The NEET aspect of this grant has been provided to enable the authority to implement the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework along with employing The Engagement and Progression Co-ordinator post who oversees the development of systems and procedures to ensure young people are able to make an effective transition to post 16 employment, education and training. Working with schools, Careers Wales and post 16 education and training providers the co-ordinator focuses on early identification of young people at risk of becoming NEET and reengaging those that are NEET into employment, education and training.

During 2019/20 so far this work has resulted in 77 young people having a positive outcome such as entering employment, gaining a qualification or engaging with other services from a referral.

Using the Careers Wales Tier Model the number of NEET young people aged 16 – 18 has decreased to its lowest level since our records began. This is not to say that isn't an issue for young people and over recent years the number of 16-18 year old NEETs has been problematically high. At its highest points in August 2015 and August 2016 there were over 350 NEET young people in Tier 1-3. The Youth Service and partners have made a sustained effort and reduced this figure to under 200 Tier 1-3 young people in August 2018 and in August 2019 this figure was 185. Further work to reduce the NEET figure is ongoing.

### **Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing;**

During 2019/20 Welsh Government provided additional funding aimed at the early identification and support of young people with emerging mental health, emotional or wellbeing issues and young people who are lonely and socially isolated.

This funding has also provided training for the Youth Service and partners on Youth Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, Trauma Recovery Model (TRM) Training and Drawing and Talking training. This has resulted in all of the full time youth workers being qualified youth mental health first aiders and TRM trained.

### **Youth Work support for at risk of Homelessness young people;**

During 2019/20 Welsh Government also provided additional funding to support young people aged 14-24 who are at risk of homelessness through targeted youth work.

This funding has also provided training for the youth service and partners with youth homelessness awareness training being delivered to the youth service and Shelter Cymru Training being planned.

Youth Work support has been offered to young people in supported housing at Clairewood, Port Talbot YMCA and also Lewis Road.

### **European Social Fund:**

Cam Nesa ESF Grant provides Youth Work support that seeks to make a significant reduction in the number of 16-24 year old young people who are NEET through improved engagement specific to individual needs.

To date Cam Nesa has helped 154 young people gain employment, helped 40 young people into education or training, helped 23 young people gain national qualifications and 52 young people gain vocational qualifications.

### **Communities First Legacy Grant:**

This grant provides School based youth Work support for young people aged 14-16 in years 9-11 of all secondary schools within Neath Port Talbot. The Legacy Youth Workers support young people identified by their schools, using the Vulnerability Assessment Profile and discussions both within and outside of the school environment. The Legacy team also transition with the young people at the end of year 11 to best support them into a positive Education, Employment or Training destination.

Year 11 destination statistics collated by Careers Wales indicate that the number young people transitioning from school into Not in Education,

Employment or Training (NEET) has reduced steadily from 7.1% in 2009 to 2.3% in 2017. The latest information from Careers Wales shows Neath Port Talbot's second lowest ever figure of 2.9%.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and Open Gold Centre:**

The D of E is available to young people from the age of 13 and is run in all secondary schools and also operates through a range of other youth organisations, such as youth clubs and uniformed organisations. With 3 levels i.e. bronze, silver and gold, it offers a good opportunity for young people to develop or improve their skills, provide support to their communities, and test their physical and emotional resilience through an outward bound expedition.

Neath Port Talbot is recognised as providing one of the best schemes in Wales, we are always within the top 3 local authorities for the number of young people that gain a D of E annually. We also have the highest average completion rate in the country over the last 5 years. The D of E is a nationally accredited outcome and is well recognised by employers, further and higher education providers. The Youth Service has an extensive store of equipment available to schools and youth organisations which are loaned out to keep the cost down for young people.

### **Open Gold Centre:**

The Open Gold Centre is open to any young person in NPT aged 16-24. The centre provides a 10 month programme which delivers the training for the Gold expedition. The training takes place in the Brecon Beacons and the final expedition takes place in Dartmoor. The centre also operates a young leader's scheme for the young people who have completed the Gold Award and want to remain involved with the centre. They therefore join this scheme which trains them up as expedition leaders and they work as volunteers with the Open Gold Centre and also with secondary schools at Bronze and Silver level.

### **Relationship and Sex Education [SRE]**

The Youth Service make a significant contribution to the delivery of RSE within the local authority and support the lessons in the locally devised SRE Key Stage 3 SRE pack. The pack enables partners and professionals [Teachers, Youth and Nurse Practitioners] to deliver SRE in secondary educational schools across NPT to provide a cohesive approach to SRE. The approach provides a consistent educational experience for all young people within the county borough, adhering to relevant Welsh Government

SRE recommendations. In addition a Senior Officer within the core Youth Service team manages the NPT SRE group which brings together all relevant partners involved in SRE reporting to the Director and Assistant Director of Education and the VAWDASV Leadership Group.

### **Relationships Advise Drop in Service [RADS]**

Is a free, confidential, non-judgemental service accessible in a number of our community venues [youth clubs/schools/colleges and mobile provisions] at convenient times for young people and delivered by highly trained youth practitioners in the field of sexual health and young people. RADS practitioners deal with a range of issues including; safe relationships, contraception, pregnancy, abortion, sexually transmitted infections [STI's], LGBT and many other health issues. Additionally, they provide barrier contraception, pregnancy testing, advice and support to access secondary sexual health and other health service to address; substance misuse, eating disorders, smoking cessation, sexual exploiting, abusive relationships, self-esteem and mental health issues. The Youth Services RADS manager provides a daily on-call emergency service for RADS. Issues regarding this service relate to the withdrawal of funding from the LHB [RADS was funded by the LHB from 2001 - until 2017].

### **Outcomes for Young People**

During 2018/19 the number of young people achieving a nationally accredited outcome from the Youth Service raised once again to 13% with 666 individuals being awarded either a Duke of Edinburgh Award or a Qualification ranging from entry level to level 3. This is above the Welsh average which for 2018/19 is 10%.

Local outcomes for the Youth Service during 2018/19 was 1,028 which is 19% of the young people who engaged with the Service.

Outcomes for the Youth Service. This is less than previous years due to the loss of the Year 7 transition programme.

During 2018 the Youth Service Received a Youth Excellence Award for its work with the Youth Council and also received the Bronze Quality Mark. During 2019 the Youth Service received the National Participation Kite Mark.



**Youth Council:**

The Youth Council is supported by the Youth Service who fund a dedicated worker, venue and travel costs to projects and events which include reward activities. The local authority cabinet members are also considered partners along with the young people resident in NPT.

The Youth Council consists of 24 young people aged 11+ who were elected through a democratic process. The Youth Council is the representative voice of young people aged 11-25 in Neath Port Talbot and has been recognised as the first point of contact for youth engagement in decision making by the Local Service Board and County Councillors.

The members come from schools and a range of targeted groups such as, LGBTQ+ young people, Young Carers, Sixth Form pupils, College and University, Families First young people and also Looked After Children. Another round of elections will take place in 2020 and will target Schools and groups who didn't engage in 2019.

The Youth Council have representatives on the British Youth Council, Children's Commissioner Advisory Panel, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Youth Health Board and also on the advisory group for ongoing health related projects. This work involves members attending meetings to feed in to national participation events and campaigns/promote youth council work locally to raise the profile of NPT Youth Service and local authority.

The Youth Council won a Youth Excellence Award in 2018 for Promoting young People's Rights and was also instrumental in helping NPT Youth Service sign up to the National Participation Standards and the Youth Service and the Think Family Partnership have both recently been awarded the National Participation Kitemark.

**Young Inspectors:**

6 young people from the Youth Council recently completed the Young Inspectors training which is a level 2 Agored Cymru Certification. These young people have already been out inspecting youth provision against the National Participation Standards.

**Youth Mayor and Deputy Mayor:**

This is the first year that Neath Port Talbot has elected a Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor. Both will act as the youth for all young people across

the local authority and will shadow the Mayor of Neath Port Talbot. The Calendar of events during this pilot year will be small and managed in partnership between the Mayor office and the Youth Service. To date the youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor have attended The Armed Forces Event, The Mayors Christmas Charity Event, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Presentation Evening and Neath Port Talbot CVS AGM.

### **Make your Mark Ballot:**

Young people from Neath Port Talbot take part in the annual Make your Mark Ballot which is a National consultation. Results from the Make your Mark Ballot are discussed by the youth council and presented to cabinet. For 2019 the top 3 issues nationally were:

- 1 - Environment
- 2 – Hate Crime
- 3 – Votes at 16

The top 3 local issues for Neath Port Talbot young people were:

- 1 – Mental Health
- 2 – Knife Crime
- 3 – Curriculum for life

### **ESTYN Inspection 2017:**

The youth council met with the Estyn Inspectors on 6 December 2017 where Estyn recorded the following in their report:

*...‘The youth council draws appropriately on a wide range of young people representing schools and colleges as well as particular interest groups such as the LGBT forum and LAC forum. As part of its work, the youth council meet with elected members of the cabinet every three months and petitions councillors effectively on behalf of young people living in Neath Port Talbot’.*

### **Consultation:**

The youth council have mechanisms in place to enable ongoing, structured, systematic and meaningful engagement with partners. For example they are regularly consulted on most aspects of service provisions e.g. the design of play spaces, health issues, promotional materials e.g. ACES card, Young Carers Posters, Calan DVS Early Intervention Project Year 7 and Community Safety consultation on their Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) card. The Youth Council also take part in the Play Sufficiency Assessment.

## **Engagements:**

Young people engage with the Youth Council to help champion children's rights by giving young people a voice, empowering them with their rights and achieving fantastic outcomes on their behalf. This is achieved with support from the local authority's councillors/youth service.

Young people contact the youth council through social media, by letter, email, petitions and most recently by video. The youth council undertake consultations, face to face meetings and attend youth groups/events. An intergenerational project is on-going while the local authority involve the youth council in most aspects of services designed for young people.

## **On- Going Work:**

Cuts to Minority Ethnic Achievement Service & Traveller Education

The Youth Council campaigned to reverse the decision to cut individual funding streams to the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS) and the Traveller Education Service (TES) in NPT.

Actions to date included letters from the youth council to Cabinet Secretary of Education Kirsty Williams stating the rights of these young people were not being respected and requesting sight of the Children's Rights Impact Assessment.

Under the Wales Measure (2010) ministers have a duty to complete a CRIA to assess how any change to policies or procedures will affect young people. The Youth Council asked the Cabinet Secretary for a meeting to discuss the Education Improvement Grant. The meeting was declined. The youth council wrote to the Children's Commissioner Professor Sally Holland with the issue and asked her to champion these vulnerable groups of young people. A meeting with the Children's commissioner followed which was productive and the commissioner took the issue forward when she spoke to the Welsh government on November 15. This was streamed live from the Senedd. NPT Youth Council were mentioned during her broadcast.

On 6 November 2018 the Youth Council were informed by the Commissioner's office that funding for MEAS has been maintained in the 2019/20 budget, at the same amount as this year (£8.7M). The Commissioner's office said they also sent some evidence to the Assembly re-raising these concerns, quoting the correspondence from the youth council in that.

The youth council voted at their meeting on 24 November to contact Ruth Coombs, Head of Wales Equality and Human Rights Commission to keep this issue current and gather more support to help our young people.

### **Mental Health**

Mental Health has been one of the top issues for young people over the last three years both nationally and in Neath Port Talbot.

In 2018 - 491 Young people in NPT voted that mental health services should be improved with young people's help and should be available in schools. (Make Your Mark 2018).

The Wellbeing team also consulted 531 young people in local authority schools.

The youth council raised the issue and asked what the local authority is doing to promote young people's mental health/wellbeing in schools.

One solution the youth council has is to promote the new Legacy Funding Counselling service based at Tirmorfa Centre. This is free and the service is available for young people who do not attend school and recently extended to young people at risk of disengaging from schools.

### **Young Carers**

During the Youth Council elections 2017 - 2019 two seats were allocated to young carers as a special interest group.

Issues raised on behalf of young carers to date include:

School Attendance codes and the need for each School to have a Young Carers Champion.

### **LGBTQ+ Provision:**

'Protect LGBTQ+ Young People' was a top issue for NPT young people.

The Youth Council brought this issue to cabinet and highlighted the lack of any provision within NPT. Maps and details of services available to young people in surrounding authorities were shown. This resulted in a positive change with the Youth Service's Families First team setting up a new LGBTQ+ provision/service within NPT.

Feedback to date includes attendance in double figures. The provision is an environment which maximises social inclusion and safety. Young people can get support if needed, have fun, attend workshops and contribute to group discussions about issues which matter to them or anything else they wish to discuss.

Two seats on the youth council have been allocated to this special interest group.



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### **First Aid Training in Schools.**

In 2016 First Aid Training in Schools was the third top issue by voted for by young people 11 – 18 years living in Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

The Youth Council lobbied the local authority to amplify these voices. In January 2018 funding was agreed for 3 months. This led to a multi-agency project between the Youth Service, Communities First, Skills & Training Agencies and the Schools. From January 2018 to the end of March 2018 over 550+ young people have received First Aid training. The age range was extended to include young people 11 – 24 years which will enhance job application forms for young people.

### **Health Engagements**

NPT Youth Council attend the Public Health Wales Youth Health Summit to have a voice and influence change. Youth Council members also participate in the annual Public Health Quality Statement where they have been instrumental in designing and writing of articles for Annual Public Health Quality Statement. This led to young people being part of the steering group who organised the 2018 inaugural Youth Health Summit. The youth council were also invited to Public Health's AGM for the launch of the young person's quality statement. NPT Youth Council were the only group invited to feedback on the work and the experience at the residential. The young people did a brilliant job and stood with confidence at the front of the board and other workers/young people attending. The speeches were streamed live on the day and the event tweeted out by Public Health.

### **Intergenerational Project**

NPT Youth Council & NPT Older Persons' Council were keen to investigate develop and explore common issues and themes experienced by both the younger and older (50+) generations.

At a meeting both generations voted to raise awareness of scams which are affecting both. NPT Youth Council then ran an awareness raising activity for Young People called 'Beat the Scammers'. All youth clubs took part in a poster competition and designed posters to warn others of the scams targeting both the older and younger generation.

The competition was judged by Community Safety and the three winning posters were published in their magazine along with the youth service magazine.

### **The Skater community:**

The skater community from Sandfields contacted the youth council stating their drain had been cemented over by the council and the skate park was now flooding regularly when it rained. The youth council met with the skaters twice at the park and took pictures of the flooding, The youth council took their issue to cabinet and the matter was resolved with a new eco drain system installed at the park. Cllr Edward Latham was the main driver with the authority to ensure these works were being carried out and completed.

### **Example opportunities for the young people include:**

Membership of the British Youth Council 2017 - 2019- Invites to members meetings to feed in to national participation events and campaigns/promote youth council work locally to raise the profile of NPT Youth Service and local authority.

One young person is elected through the youth council as the Member of UK Youth Parliament representing NPT at the House of Commons debate every November (Ongoing).

One young person sits on the Children Commissioners Advisory Panel, opportunities are offered every two years by the commissioner's office.

Two young people sit on the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Youth Health Board (ABMU) while another young person represents young people on a local Mental Health group. (Ongoing)

Seven young people were part of the group designing and contributing to Public Health Wales' 2017 Annual Quality Statement 2018.

Four Young people are part of the steering group planning the 2018 Youth Health Summit.

The youth council are the advisory group for a new health project being set up by C. Fry Senior Youth Officer NPTYs.

### **Individual Awards:**

#### **High Sherriff's Award**

In 2017 one young person was successfully nominated while in 2018 two young people were successful. Youth council members have successfully been nominated since 2015.

## **Rotary Awards**

Three members of the youth council received Rotary Awards - the latest was Erin Sandison, who represents the Young Carers and is also the Deputy Youth Mayor. The award was for children's rights and her work with Dwr y Felin Mental Health group.

## **The Debbie Connolly Special Recognition Award**

One member of the youth council was awarded with the above award at the CVS Award Presentation Evening. The special award recognised the outstanding contribution by this young person to volunteering in the local and wider community.

## **Meetings with AM's & Politicians:**

The Youth Council have met with:

Jeremy Miles, Assembly Member (AM) for Neath. At the meeting an update on Votes at 16, the proposed Welsh Youth Parliament and his priorities for Neath were discussed.

David Rees AM for Aberavon. Discussions focused on facilities for autistic young people at football matches, how to petition Welsh government and raise local issues.

Kelly Harries from Welsh Government delivered a workshop on 'Our Assembly Our way'. This was followed by a guided tour of the Senedd.

Lord Tariq Ahmad Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations

Lord Ahmad was interested to canvas the views of young people ahead of the upcoming Commonwealth Youth Forum 2018.

During his visit to Cardiff he engaged with young people from across Wales to hear what issues were on their minds and to discuss what they thought should be being done in response to these. 2 youth council members represented NPT at this event.

## **Training, Accreditation and Education for Youth Council Members**

The youth council are recognised for volunteering their time through the Millennium Volunteer Awards. The Millennium Volunteer Awards recognise young people's dedication selflessness and active citizenship at 50, 100 and 200 hours.

Education is offered to the young people during their elected term such as on-going training e.g. Children's Rights, Committee Skills, Hate Crime education e.g. Islamophobia (EYST project). Legislation e.g. Well-being of Future generations Act 2015.

During their elected term the young people also learn the following:

- Communication and public speaking skills
- Greater knowledge of politics and current affairs
- The ability to look at an issue from someone else's perspective
- Debating skills
- Teamwork skills
- Leadership skills
- Organisational skills
- Negotiation skills
- Listening skills

In addition to acquiring and developing the above skills, a youth council member will also benefit from the following:

Having a range of experts to call on from the local authority to provide advice, suggestions and Guidance.

To work in partnership with the local authority decision makers for the benefit of young people and to raise the profile of NPTCBC.

Having a dedicated worker supporting the role and work of the Elected Members

Meeting new young people and making lots of new friends.

Attending events.

Meeting / coming into contact with Councillors, Assembly members and politicians

Positive representation - young people can represent their peers to the media/communities, countering negative stereotypes and promoting positive images.

Chance to gain an insight into and influence how and why decisions are taken.

### **Previous Issues Raised:**

#### **Immigrants Refugees and Asylum Seekers 2017**

The youth council asked if the rights of these young people were being respected in schools and quoted article 22 of the UNCRC.

The Youth Council received an update from the Minority Ethnic Achievements Service.

#### **Mental Health Survey**

The Youth Council questioned information on the survey proposed by Mental Health Group (ABMU) also one of the priorities under the Well-being of future generations (Wales) Act 2015. The youth council had an update from a Senior Officer stating that the group had changed and the survey would be looked at a later date.



## **Communities First**

Youth Council raised concerns with Cabinet members in relation to the financial cut backs affecting the Communities First programme along with the low number of consultations undertaken.

The youth council also wrote a letter to the Minister for Communities stating their outrage at the cuts which would affect areas in NPT already suffering from socio economic disadvantage. The youth council asked if a Children's Rights impact assessment had been undertaken prior to the funding cuts. The response did not answer the question and gave only a brief overview of the situation.

## **Hate Crime**

Issues around Hate Crime were raised by the Youth Council and contact was established with the Hate Crime Officer.

## **Welsh Baccalaureate**

The Youth Council raised issues regarding the Welsh Baccalaureate and the lack of work experience and that young people in Neath Port Talbot were being disadvantaged when filling out applications asking for previous work experience.

Cabinet were updated and emails concluded that careers had sent a letter to the schools stating work experience was now their responsibility - this information has been forwarded to the Head of Participation.

## **Transport**

The Youth Council raised the issue of proposed cuts to welsh and faith school transport policies.

It was noted that a new School Transport Policy 2017 was now in place, and that Faith School transport in Neath Port Talbot had been reinstated. The Youth Council thanked the Head of Participation for his help.

## **Transport - Health & Safety**

Some young people do not feel safe using public transport - the youth council rose their issues and also gave examples from personal experiences of youth council members. The youth council asked for support to make public transport safer for young people.

The head of transport contacted the youth worker to arrange a meeting with the two young people who rose the issue. This was arranged however the transport manager Joy then went off sick. Ongoing.

## **Transport - Expenses and Barriers to After School Clubs**

Young people highlighted the cost and times of public transport is a barrier to some young people accessing colleges and after school clubs. The youth council gave examples of costs and times of buses causing the problem.

## **Respecting Others Anti-Bullying Workshop**

The youth council attended an anti-bullying workshop at the Dragon Hotel Swansea to have a voice and influence change. The feedback would then inform the Welsh government's anti-bullying document 'Respecting Others'. During and following the workshop the youth council complained they felt their views were not listened to and they were disrespected by the facilitators. They also said the facilitators were using the event to promote their own agenda to influence the report to the Welsh government.

The Leader then wrote to Children in Wales who organised the event explaining what had happened and that the youth council said they felt disrespected.

Representatives from Children in Wales came to the cabinet liaison meeting in October and apologised for the conduct of the facilitators and said they had been spoken to. Children in Wales had also let the Welsh Assembly know of the complaint and the result is a new consultation will now take place.

## **School Attendance**

The Youth Council received an update on school attendance in days lost and percentages, as detailed in the circulated report.

It was highlighted that Schools look at pupils that continuously miss school or patterns than emerge from absences, although exceptional circumstances have to be taken into consideration.

The youth council decided to look at the codes for attendance to see whether some young people i.e. young carers are being discriminated against or need additional support. This is an ongoing issue.

The solution the youth council will ask for will be a code which takes into account the needs of young carers.

## **Financial Impacts:**

There are no implications linked to the report but Members should note that the Youth Service is now 71% externally funded through external grants all of which are currently annual funding streams.

## **Integrated Impact Assessment:**

**There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring purposes'.**

**Valleys Communities Impacts:**  
**No implications.**

**Workforce Impacts:**  
**No implications.**

**Legal Impacts:**  
**No implications.**

**Risk Management Impacts:**

Funding streams associated with Neath Port Talbot Youth Services work is currently funded through external grants which currently expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. There is ongoing work seeking extensions on the Communities First Legacy and ESF Cam Nesa Grants. The Youth Support Grant is Welsh Government funded and reviewed on an annual basis.

**Consultation:**

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

**Recommendations:**

This report is for monitoring only.

**Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

This report is for monitoring only.

**Implementation of Decision:**

This report is for monitoring only.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Youth Service Structure

Appendix 2 – Youth Clubs Info

Appendix 3 – Youth Club Summary

**List of Background Papers:**

N/A

**Officer Contact:**

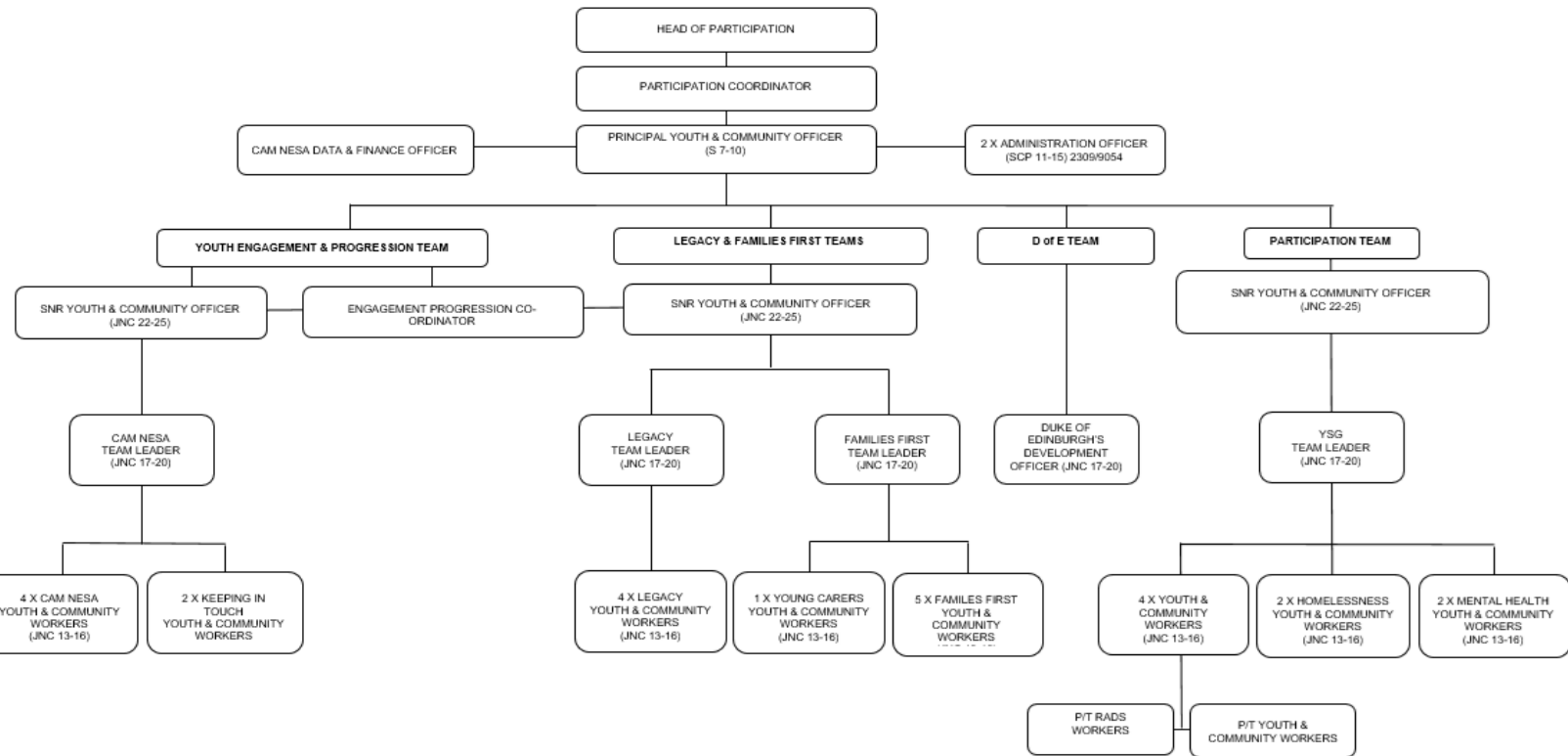
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# Appendix 1

## Structure 2019



# Youth Clubs In Your Area

## Cwmlllynfell Youth Club

The Welfare Hall

Tues 6:30pm-8:30pm  
Weds 6:30pm-8:30pm

## Bryn Youth Club

The Community Centre

Fri 6:00pm – 8:00pm

## Blaengwynfi Youth Club

The Library and  
Public Hall

Wed 5:45pm-7:45pm

## Glynneath Youth Club

The Training Centre

Thurs 6:00pm-8:30pm

## Seven Sisters Youth Club

The Community Centre

Thurs 6:30pm-8:30pm

## Bryncoch Youth Club

The Community Centre

Thurs 7:00pm-9:00pm

## Crynant Youth Club

The Community Centre

Tues 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Fri 6:00pm-8:00pm

## Cymer Youth Club

Cymer Afan  
Comprehensive

Tues 5:30pm-7:30pm  
Fri 5:00pm-7:00pm

## Taibach Youth Club

The Community  
Education Centre

Tues 7:00pm-9:00pm  
Thurs 7:00pm-9:00pm

## Sandfields Youth Club

Ysgol Bae Baglan

Tue 7:00pm-9:00pm  
Thurs 7:00pm-9:00pm  
Fri 6:00pm-8:00pm

## Cimla Youth Club

The Community Centre

Mon 6:00pm-8:00pm

## Croeserw Youth Club

The Community  
Enterprise Centre

Mon 6:00pm-8:00pm

## Appendix 3

### Youth Club Summary 2018-19 (April – March)

Youth Club	No of Sessions Open	Contacts	No of Individual YP	Female	Male	Average Attendance
Blaengwynfi	16	340	94	48	46	21
Bryn	20	75	12	5	7	4
Bryncoch	30	438	69	30	39	14
Cimla	28	102	35	9	26	4
Croeserw	22	400	98	44	54	18
Crynant	58	838	59	20	39	14
Cwmllynfell	39	766	78	39	39	20
Cymmer	16	177	50	31	19	11
Glynneath	26	122	21	4	17	5
Sandfields	87	1972	286	114	172	23
Seven Sisters	23	307	47	13	34	13
Taibach	58	3096	231	115	116	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>8633</b>	<b>1080</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>20</b>