



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee

19 November 2020

Report of the Head of Participation

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Neath Port Talbot Youth Service and Partners – Summer Support Programme

Purpose of the Report:

To provide Members with an update on the Summer Support Programme the Neath Port Talbot Youth Service with partners delivered.

Background:

Neath Port Talbot Youth Service and partners delivered the Summer Support Programme on Monday to Thursday on weeks commencing 17th August and 24th August.

The programme was run over 3 separate venues Cymmer Primary School, Ysgol Bae Baglan and Llangatwg Community School. In total 66 young people expressed an interest in attending.

Cymmer 40 young people, YBB 17 young people and Llangatwg 9 young people;

The number of young people who attended was lower than expected, the bad weather was a key factor to this. There were a total number of 41 young people who attended

Cymmer 23 young people, YBB 14 young people and Llangatwg 8 young people.

Most of the young people attending didn't know each other at the start of the programme and one of the success stories of this provision was that they gained new friends by attending.

Activities and Feedback:

The young people were organised into small groups and each day they were offered a range of activities with Sgiliau providing a range of sporting activities, the NPT Music Service providing music based sessions including dance, singing, writing and performances as well as putting on "mini gigs" for the young people to enjoy.

The youth service delivered a range of arts and crafts and team building activities such as spray painting, making wind chimes etc.

Evaluations:

YBB

The 14 young people from YBB completed evaluations with 12 rating the provision excellent/very good. 10 young people said that the programme has helped them make new friends and 10 stating that it has made them feel better about going back to school. 11 of the young people stated that the youth workers made them feel comfortable whilst attending.

When asked what their favourite part of the programme was, the staff was the highest rated followed by spray painting.

Cymmer:

The young people from Cymmer carried out a more informal evaluation and spoke to the Youth Workers about their feelings.

Young people's feedback on how the Summer Programme made them feel included - "I really enjoyed. Happy, enjoyed. I feel better, I was able to talk to people. Connected, confident, had fun. Excited, happy, learnt how to play hockey and archery. Happy and excited. Happy, enjoyed socialising, confident. I feel I have improved my skills. Alright, I spoke to other people that I didn't know."

The Youth Workers in Cymmer were able to talk to young people about their concerns and anxieties during the summer school. Two girls were both worried about starting comprehensive next week. One was especially scared. When asked why they were scared, they answered because they don't really know many people because they are now going to be attending Cwm Brombil which is everyone from around the Afan Valley. They also said they felt weird to go back to school in a pandemic.

One girl was especially worried about bullying because her sister was bullied in school and had a lot of problems with the bullies.

When talking through it, we asked if they knew who to turn to or who to ask for help. She said to talk to an adult, that her form teacher was lovely too. We talked about youth clubs they could attend and that the youth service are often in the comprehensives and if they see us to come over and say hello.

The Youth Workers will keep in touch with both girls to see how they get on and work with the school based staff if needed.

Llangatwg:

Llangatwg evaluations showed:

When asked if they felt if the programme has helped them feel better about themselves, the young people told us – "Yes, I feel happy, Yes, Yes because I have learnt how to do new stuff, I can do more, I have spent more time with friends." The young people also stated that the programme has helped them deal with any concerns they had about

going back to school. Feedback included – “it has made me less scared, it has helped me build confidence and yes because I’ve learnt more music and arts.”

Parents Feedback:

During the second week, we contacted parents to see if they would consent to us using photos, marketing and publicity and their replies also included feedback, these included:

- Thank you for summer club AXXXX thoroughly enjoyed, you’re amazing and he has loved every minute.
- Thank you ever so much for the scheme and a massive thank you for the staff also, my daughter very much enjoyed.
- Just to let you know, LXXXX has been really happy coming home from the sessions and said that she’s having so much fun. Getting her up in the mornings to go has become a doddle and she does so with a smile on her face looking forward to the day ahead.
 - LXXXX has said many times that she can’t get over how friendly the staff are so I thank you for this. You’re obviously doing a great job so well done and thank you very much for putting a smile back on her face as the lockdown and being away from her friends for so long did really affect her mood. Thank you.
- AXXXX is loving going so much she doesn’t want it to end, thank you so much
- Firstly I'd like to say thanks to the team this week for going ahead and providing this program within this school holiday and these unprecedented times.

Both my children have thoroughly enjoyed all activities provided and I definitely think this has helped in their motivation and confidence of getting introduced to comprehensive schooling starting next week.

It would be great if it was a regular school holiday programme as I'm sure children would most certainly benefit from all activities provided.

Both children were happy leaving each day and looking forward to the following day's activities.

Well done and thanks to all involved.

- These sessions have really helped MXXXX get ready for return to school he feels better about seeing everyone again after such a long time

He has now realised he can make friends easier than he thought so hoping this will help on his return to school as he isn't in class with any of his friends

I think this programme is amazing and MXXXX has thoroughly enjoyed it thank you for the opportunity it's been amazing he now loves spray painting and wants a kit

- I just wanted to say thank you for running such a fab course. My son had a wonderful time, got to try tons of new things and has made new friends. He came out smiling ear to ear and couldn't wait to show me what he has been making.

Thank you so much for his art and crafts goodie too.

Childcare & Play

In July 2020, Welsh Government made £1.6m available for Welsh local authorities to support childcare and play opportunities for vulnerable children in line with local need and priorities. NPT was allocated £75,000 to provide childcare and play opportunities for childcare aged 5-16 years in the priority groups below:

- i. Children on the child protection register
- ii. Looked after children, where there is risk of placement breakdown
- iii. Children receiving care and support (but not looked after or on the child protection register)
- iv. Children with Special Educational Needs
- v. Other looked after children

A plan was submitted to WG to provide the following utilising the funding.

	No. children	No. of Sessions
Childcare places	50	250
Interplay	20	5
Ysgol Maes y Coed Summer Play	10	5
Summer Youth Scheme	26	25

Outcomes:

Childcare Places

Ten childcare places per day were purchased at five childcare settings (250 sessions per week), offering play opportunities for children aged 5-11 years for five weeks of the summer holidays.

A total of 256 sessions per week were offered to 84 children across the five settings. Children were offered three days a week each unless otherwise requested by the family's social worker/TAF worker. Childcare providers were able to increase the offer to the families where spaces allowed.

Spaces Offered

Childcare - ABC	16
Childcare - Aberafan ICC	20
Childcare - Canolfan Maerdy	9
Childcare - Lots of Tots	12
Childcare - PALS	27

On average, 140 sessions per week were attended with a further 50 being booked and not attended.

Interplay

A week of play and social opportunities were arranged, to be delivered by Interplay who specialise in providing inclusive play opportunities.

14 children aged between 7 and 16 years with disabilities or additional needs were identified from our Children's Disability team, and these were invited to attend the activity sessions.

Contact was made with the social workers and with the family beforehand to understand the specific needs of each child to ensure that these could be met by the staff. Five of the children required 1:1 support and additional staff were recruited in order to provide this.

Of the five children requiring 1:1 support, all accepted the offer of the activities; only three attended but they attended all of the sessions.

The children enjoyed a lot of outdoor play and non-contact games, such as hide and seek, hockey, and obstacle courses, and indoor activities such as treasure hunts, drawing competitions, and imaginary play. The children needing 1-1 support were able to join in with two cooking activities that had been prepared, making pizza and brownies.

Ysgol Maes Y Coed

The school successfully ran a Summer Programme which saw 48 pupils access a wide range of learning activities over its duration. Pupils attended on different days, dependent on their individual needs and were supported by staff from the school. Staff organised activities to support pupil's social, emotional and physical development, provide new learning experiences and allow opportunities to renew relationships with staff. All the activities in the programme were devised and delivered by highly trained staff, with expert knowledge of pupil needs. The school has received positive feedback from parents and carers, whilst staff and pupils enjoyed the experience, as all activities were carried out with a smile on their face.

The school has also operated a very successful resource development service for parents/carers during lockdown and through the summer. This involved staff contacting the home of particular pupils on the Monday of each week. Staff would then discuss pupils progress in their home learning programmes and agreeing any additional resources that pupils may need, as next steps in their learning. Staff would then devise, develop or purchase the relevant resources required. Examples included purchasing/providing physio or occupational therapy equipment, sensory and/or communication resources or enhancing augmentative communication systems used by pupils. These resources would then be delivered by staff on the Thursday of each week, to allow staff to

explain to parents/carers how these resources can be used. Staff were then available at the school to provide any additional support to families, should it be required.

Financial Impacts:

No Implications

Integrated Impact Assessment:

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for information purposes

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No Implications

Workforce Impacts:

No Implications

Legal Impacts:

No Implications

Risk Management Impacts:

No Implications

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item to include the full consultation report as an appendix.

Recommendations:

That Members note the report

Appendices:

None

List of Background Papers:

None

Officer Contact:

Chris Millis – Head of Participation
01639 763226