

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNCIL
NEATH PORT TALBOT SOCIAL SERVICES, HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY CABINET BOARD

18TH APRIL 2024

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SERVICES – K. WARREN

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Matter for Information

Wards Affected All Wards

ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION ANNUAL REPORT

1. Purpose of Report

To inform Cabinet of the Engagement & Participation work undertaken across the Directorate. This will include Adult and Children's Services. We will look at Children's Rights and how opportunities for children and young people are provided to give them a voice in matters that affect their lives. The report will also provide an overview of engagement within Adult Services. We will also outline future plans that are currently being developed for 2024.

2. Background

The Engagement & Participation Team provides platforms for service users to have a voice in service development and help shape the services they receive. The Engagement & Participation Team liaise with staff across the Directorate to help embed Children's Rights into daily practise and ensure that our children and young people see and experience their rights under the UNCRC. It is important to constantly seek the voice of residents in NPT to co-produce services and achieve the best possible outcomes. Community links are forged to promote adult engagement and number of platforms are used to capture their views and opinions.

3. Financial Impacts

There are no financial impacts arising from this report.

4. Integrated Impact assessment

There is no requirement for an integrated impact assessment as this report is for information purposes only.

5. Valleys Communities Impact

There are no implications.

6. Workforce Impacts

There is an expectation across the Directorate that the workforce has due regard to Children's Rights. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure Children's Rights are at the forefront when working with care experienced children and young people. Appropriate support and training will be provided. These same principles apply within Adult Services where service users are actively encouraged by staff to have a voice on decisions that affect them, and this informs practise.

7. Legal impacts

There are no legal impacts arising from this report.

8. Risk Assessment Impacts

There are no risk management requirements arising from this report.

9. Crime and Disorder Impacts

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the Council in the exercise of its functions to have "due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- a) Crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- c) Re-offending the area".

There is no impact under the Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

10. Counter Terrorism Impacts

There are no counter terrorism requirements arising from this report.

11. Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Impacts:

Section 2(1) of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 introduced a general duty where a person exercising relevant functions must have regard (along with all other relevant matters) to the need to remove or minimise any factors which:

- (a) increase the risk of violence against women and girls, or
- (b) exacerbate the impact of such violence on victims.

The proposals contained in this report are likely to compliment and work alongside the impact on the above duty. VAWDA SV is included in the priorities of the Board under exploitation.

12. Consultation

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item. The ethos of the role of the Engagement & Participation Officer is to continually consult with children, young people and their families and adults.

13. Recommendations

Paper for information only.

14. Reasons for Proposed Decision

Paper for information only.

15. Implementation of Decision

Paper for information only.

16. Appendices

Appendix 1: Engagement & Participation Report 2023-2024

17. Background Papers

None.

18. Officer Contact

Darren Bartley, Engagement & Participation Officer, Children & Young People Services, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Email: d.bartley@npt.gov.uk

Rhiana Smith, Engagement and Participation Officer, Children & Young People Services, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

E-mail: r.smith3@npt.gov.uk

Keri Warren, Head of Children and Young People Services

k.warren@npt.gov.uk