

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

2 SEPTEMBER 2014

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE –
LEGAL & REGULATORY SERVICES**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF A SINGLE YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE ACROSS
WESTERN BAY**

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Committee with information relating to the implementation of the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities.

- 2.1 The key improvement objectives identified in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 have been embodied in the Overview & Scrutiny Forward Work Programmes. The amended Corporate Improvement Objectives adopted by Council on 3 April 2013 formally set out the improvement objectives that the Council will seek to implement between 2013 and 2017. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees engage in review and development of plans, policy or strategies that support the Corporate Themes.

3. Background.

- 3.1 The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee have previously considered the subject of the Youth Offending Service in March 2012. At this time, Members expressed strong support for the YOS and its important work with young people, but expressed concern regarding future financial uncertainty.
- 3.2 Since this time the Authority has considered this area as part of its collaboration work in the Western Bay region. In 2013 each of the three Cabinets agreed to amalgamate the three Youth Offending Services in the WB region, subject to a supportive business case. In principle agreement was also given to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to host the WB YOS.
- 3.3 In terms of collaborative projects, Welsh Government have agreed that there is an important role for scrutiny and as a result commissioned an independent research study by the Centre for Local and Regional Government Research at Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University, titled 'Developing a culture of collaborative scrutiny: and evaluation of practice and potential'. This report

stated that bar a few exceptions, *'whilst councils have aspirations - and in some cases firm plans - for collaborative scrutiny, overall developments have been slow.'* Dr Downe, one of the researchers further explained: *'Our research concluded that public service collaborations in Wales are not currently being fully held to account. Given the funding at their disposal and their service responsibilities, this is a serious concern and needs to be remedied.'*

- 3.4 At the Cabinet meeting in April 2014, Cabinet Members received a report on the Western Bay (Health and Social Care) Collaboration, under which the subject of the YOS collaboration was also discussed. Cabinet were advised within this report of the importance of scrutiny and that Welsh Government strongly supported collaborative scrutiny. They subsequently agreed as part of their resolutions that *'future reports (as appropriate) will be referred to the Health and Wellbeing and Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committees to ensure that there are appropriate scrutiny arrangements in place at a local/regional level regarding the Western Bay programme.'*

4. Current Situation / proposal.

- 4.1 Attached at Appendix A is report from the Directorate detailing the progress being made with the creation of the Western Bay Youth Justice and Early Intervention Service.
- 4.2 When examining the report, Members may wish to consider the following points when formulating their questions to the invitees:
- a) Have the delays caused by negotiations with the trade unions and delays as a result of IT database mergers had any impact on the cost savings?
 - b) What is the Western Bay Governance Structure?
 - c) What Governance Structure is in place or planned for the YOS?
 - d) What actions are being taken to mitigate against potential changes to the local authorities funding position or any reductions to future grant funding?
- 4.3 Members may also wish to consider the future role of scrutiny in relation to the Youth Offending Service as well as other Western Bay projects relating to children and young people

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 The work of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee relates to the review and development of plans, policy or strategy that form part of the Policy Framework and consideration of plans, policy or strategy relating to the power to promote or improve economic, social or environmental well being in the County Borough of Bridgend.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 The equalities implications are set out in the Officer's report at Appendix A.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The financial implications are set out in the Officer's report at Appendix A.

8. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- i. Consider and note the content of the Officer's report;
- ii. Explore issues consistent with its challenge and support role;
- iii. Decide how it wishes to progress future Scrutiny of this item.

Andrew Jolley,
Assistant Chief Executive – Legal & Regulatory Services
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Contact Officer: Rachel Keepins
Scrutiny Officer

Telephone: 01656 643613
Email: scrutiny@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address: Democratic Services - Scrutiny
Bridgend County Borough Council,
Civic Offices,
Angel Street,
Bridgend,
CF31 4WB

Background Documents:

None