

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**REPORT TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY****10 JUNE 2014****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - CHILDREN****YOUTH SERVICE REVIEW****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide relevant information and a current overview in relation to the consultation regarding the youth service review
- 1.2 The purpose of the review will be to :
- Identify ways in which the Welsh Governments vision for young people's services can be achieved.
 - Establish how communities and voluntary organisations could be supported to better engage in developing universal provision, ensuring that it becomes more locally relevant and available.
 - Identify how the statutory youth service can provide support to communities and third sector organisations

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 This report links to the following improvement priorities in the corporate plan:
- Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational attainment
 - Working with children and families to tackle problems early
 - Working together to help vulnerable people stay independent
 - Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles

3. Background

- 3.1 BCBC Youth Service has made temporary operational decisions which have seen the transitory closure of sixteen open access youth provisions across the county borough. These decisions have been made pending the outcome of the consultation on the youth service review.
- 3.2 The Welsh Government is looking to local authorities to increasingly target resources towards the most vulnerable young people within local communities and the youth offer has been revised to ensure that it is in line with the steers set by Welsh Government. Through the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), funding for young people's services has been reduced, the consultation process will ensure statistically relevant data is analysed and collated and will provide the basis of the youth review.

- 3.3 As a council, we want to develop engagement of local communities and the voluntary sector in the delivery of services within geographical locations across the borough. Although there is a substantial involvement for these groups there is a need to develop youth work opportunities through additional models of delivery ensuring integrated working. We would also look investigate and develop the use of social media as an engagement tool for young people.
- 3.4 The reduction of funding has steered attention to developing new techniques of delivering specific provision and working more closely with a range of partner organisations.
- 3.5 A key element of current youth work delivery is the targeted work with vulnerable young people, this will be an element considered in the youth review. The youth service works with a range of individuals who have a breadth of issues including, substance misuse, sexual health, involvement in crime, not accessing education, employment or training, homelessness and those with emotional and physical needs. These services require qualified professionals who are appropriately trained to deliver these specialist services. The review will additionally consider programmes which include earning outside the classroom and outdoor education opportunities and the degree to which BCBC youth service is best placed to deliver these services or examine alternative possibilities for future delivery.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 BCBC youth service have initiated a service mapping exercise of provision within local communities to ensure all current provision is captured.
- 4.2 A scheduled timeline for the
- May – June 2014. Liaise with BCBC marketing team to seek advisement on options for consultation.
 - June – September 2014. Develop a series of questions that will provide statistically relevant data. Develop an on line survey with support via BCBC marketing team.
 - June – September 2014. Set out focus groups in all areas, to include: young people, schools, youth council, third sector organisations, council members and police.
 - Autumn 2014 40 day formal consultation
 - November- December 2014. Analyse data and prepare consultation report.
 - January 2015 Compile report and present to cabinet
 - March – April 2015. Implementation

5. Effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 None

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 As part of the scheduled consultation period, an Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken. It will be available with the final cabinet report that will be presented pending the outcomes of the consultation.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The youth review will provide analytical statistical data that will inform the council, this may impact on services provided and may give call for the need to reassess the relocation of resources following the MTFS and the reduction in youth services funding.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 That Committee note the content of this report and provide any necessary feedback

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Attachment