

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

20 MARCH 2023

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE REPORT

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet Committee Equalities (CCE) on the work done in recent months by the Youth Council and Young People Of Pride (YPOP)

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the council's well-being objectives.

3. Background

3.1 Bridgend Youth Council consists of a mayor, cabinet members and teams of youth councillors. It is set up and run by local young people, and is an entirely separate entity from Bridgend County Borough Council.

3.2 The main priorities highlighted by the Youth Mayor and Deputy are as follows:

- The Sustainability for the future
- Education of Democracy and UK politics in schools
- Tackling Youth Violence through prevention programmes
- Youth mental Health Awareness and support in schools
- Educational prevention to bring an end to racism and injustice
- Supporting LGBTQ+ Rights

4. Current situation/proposal

4.1 The Youth Council now have two sessions a month. One online session, 'Chat and Chill', that allows members to log onto zoom/online to chat to a Youth worker and take part in some quizzes and games. Another session is a formal face to face Youth Council Meeting, which happens on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The Youth Council meet in Evergreen Hall and take part in workshops, training, debates and consultations.

They have worked with Bridgend County Borough Council staff and outside organisations such as Barod, the Police and Crime Commissioners Team, Cwm Taf Health Board and more.

4.2 Over the last few months, the Youth Council have contributed to the following consultations:

- Shaping the new digital Youth Development service in Bridgend,
- The Bridgend County Borough Council Corporate and Wellbeing Plan
- Cwm Taf Health Boards Children and Young people's Charter.

4.3 They have also highlighted national events on social media such as:

- #wearyellowforyouthmentalhealth Day,
- International Women's Day
- The Youth Mayor and Member of Youth Parliament Aspen took part in the annual Remembrance Day events in Bridgend.
- Members also took part in sessions through our Safeguarding week, highlighting information around substance use, domestic violence and mental health support.

4.4 The Deputy Youth Mayor, Gwion has been busy delivering his Trans Awareness training to the Youth Development Team and Senior Management Team in Bridgend. Gwion has been recognised for his service to the community through winning a High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan's Award.

4.5 The Young People Of Pride (YPOP) LGBTQIA+ Youth Club has also progressed significantly in the last year, with now over 20 young people aged between 12-17 attending.

Each Monday evening they take part in crafts, games and information sessions.

YPOP runs in Evergreen Hall each Monday from 4-6pm and is a safe space for young LGBTQIA+ people and allies to meet and socialise with ease.

Great support is received from South Wales Police Community Support Officer's and Hate Crimes Officers. They drop in a few times a month to link in with the young people and offer support around any community issues they are facing.

There was a Halloween party and online cooking session for bonfire night which saw young people from both YPOP and the Youth Council logging on to make cinnamon rolls ready for the fireworks.

The YPOP group have also been involved in LGBTQ+ History month activities, a YPOP art project, rebranding our logo and working with Karma Seas Surf School to secure some free surf sessions through their Paddle Out LGBT+ funding.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 The report has no direct effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been used to formulate the recommendations within this report:

Long-term - The consideration and approval of this report will assist in supporting equalities objectives in the short-term and in the long term.

Prevention – The Forward Work Programme aims to identify issues that are relevant in our community and workforce and bring key reports to prevent problems from occurring.

Integration - The Forward Work Programme ensures collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure integration for all people within our community and our workforce with protected characteristics.

Collaboration - Partnership working assists the Council in meeting its Public Sector Equalities Duties.

Involvement - Publication of the report ensures that the public and stakeholders can review the work that will be undertaken over the next 12 months.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications within this report.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That Cabinet Committee Equalities notes the update and considers any other equality matters to report on in the coming year.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE
10 March 2023

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Background papers: None