

Meeting of Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2

10 July 2023

Responses to Recommendations/Actions

Prevention and Wellbeing, Leisure (Halo) and Cultural Trusts (Awen) and further integration with BAVO

Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee requested:

1. That a visit be arranged for Members of the Committee to the Books on Wheels mobile library service to provide them with an understanding of the areas it covers and what is currently available.

Officer's Response

This item was discussed with Awen at the quarterly contract meeting on the 7th September and Awen would welcome supporting this request. There were two considerations discussed that may be of interest to members. The first was a visit to the base at Pyle library to see how requests were managed and to meet the staff involved in supporting service users. The second option included members joining the delivery service within their areas within the mobile library to see the service in action with some of their residents.

We agreed that this would be easier to arrange directly with Awen.

2. A breakdown by characteristic of the number of participants that access leisure facilities that receive free or subsidised membership/access.

Officer's Response

The access to leisure scheme provides low-cost access to those on means tested benefits. During 2022-23 this averaged 1746 beneficiaries per month.

The national exercise referral scheme provides lower cost access for participants and supported 1519 beneficiaries. Feel Good for life dementia support provided low-cost access for 200 beneficiaries including carers. Carers can attend activities at no cost when accompanying and supporting the cared for generally. 50 unpaid carers were supported with 6-week programmes of support.

There were 57 young athletes provided with free memberships as part of the Halo Athlete Foundation. There are 42 members of the armed forces or veterans provided with free swimming supported by Welsh local government association. There were 2815 people aged 60 plus accessing free swimming and 6676 children and young people accessing free swimming.

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There has also been support in the year for 848 memberships including 539 young carer households, 33 care leavers and 66 young people on the edge of care. In addition to this there have been 210 young people with disabilities and their households supported with low-cost access.

3. A copy of the presentation to be shared with all Members, demonstrating the vision and work to be undertaken at the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl, utilising the Levelling Up Funding.

Officer's Response

BCBC have requested that Awen attend full council on the 18th October to provide a pre council summary of their work which will include details and presentation on the Grand Pavilion. This will provide more context for members and the opportunity to ask further questions. We would aim to share the presentation and supporting report following this session if that is acceptable.

4. With regard to the partnership working with Halo Leisure and Awen, whether there are plans to bring the timelines into alignment, as the Healthy Living Partnership with Halo Leisure was established for a 15-year period in 2012 and the partnership agreement with Awen runs until 2035.

Officer's Response

Currently the potential to extend the length of the healthy living partnership agreement with GLL/Halo Leisure is being reviewed due to the disruption caused by the pandemic and the need to rebuild services but as this arrangement has a contractual basis the review will need to consider related legal and procurement requirements.

3 Year Sustainability Plan to Improve Outcomes for Children and Family Services in Bridgend

Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee made the following Recommendations:

5. That an additional column be added to the Plan to include in a table, what actions demonstrate success and how those successes are measured.

Officer's Response

This column can be added. A 6 month stocktake of progress with the strategic plan following its approval in September 2023.

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Additional Information

Following detailed consideration and discussions with Officers and Cabinet Members, the Committee requested:

6. That the Committee receive a quarterly update on the implementation of the Plan.

Officer's Response

The first detailed stocktake will be available after the end of quarter 4 of 23/24 and quarterly thereafter.

7. Clarification as to how the demographic, age profile, deprivation and any other factors affect the formula for applications for grant funding.

Officer's Response

The annual Local Government Financial Settlement is designed to take account of the relative need for each Authority to spend on key services, by assessing the service needs of the population. The formula used to allocate the available funding uses the following types of indicators :

Type of indicator	% of total
Client based	67
Measures of deprivation	27
Measures of sparsity	6

Other grants received by the Council can be based on the overall allocation or parts of it. For instance, if a grant is specific to a service such as children's social care or highways, it may be allocated according the Children's services data within the formula.