

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE EQUALITIES

19 MAY 2014

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR CHILDREN
WELSH LANGUAGE PROVISION IN YOUTH SERVICES

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Cabinet Committee Equalities regarding:

- The delivery of youth services through the medium of the Welsh language.

2. This report also demonstrates that the project has helped to support the following priorities in the Corporate Plan 2013 – 2017:

- **Priority 2:** Working together to raise aspirations and drive up educational achievement
- **Priority 6** Working together to make the best use of our resources

3. Background

3.1 Bridgend County Borough Council's Youth Service delivers many Welsh language medium services. An analysis of this provision was provided in the 2012/13 Welsh Language Scheme Annual Monitoring Report which was approved by this committee on 12 June 2013. Members also requested that a further report be presented at a future Cabinet Equalities Committee to explore this provision in more detail.

4. Current situation,

4.1 Bridgend County Borough Council Youth Service undertook a consultation in September 2013 with young people accessing clubs and projects in order to identify gaps and ensure the needs, in relation to Welsh, were being met.

4.2 Of the 153 young people who chose to respond to the consultation, 57 young people attended a Welsh speaking school, 93 young people did not want to access activities in Welsh and 83 young people stated that they were happy accessing the activities already in place but did not want any additional activities delivered through Welsh in relation to Welsh culture. Activities delivered by centres and projects include Welsh cookery, Welsh culture, incorporating IT research, arts and crafts centred around Welsh heritage, off site activities to venues such as the Welsh Mining Museum, St Fagan's and the Millennium Stadium.

4.3 In addition, smaller scale activities are delivered in Welsh on a regular basis such as quizzes and games, singing and choirs, as well as traditional Welsh cooking. Over a seven month period, from September 2013 to February 2014 64 Welsh activity sessions were delivered within youth centres.

- 4.4 Thirty Youth Service staff undertook training enabling them to develop activities in the areas of Welsh heritage and culture. A further training event for staff is scheduled for the end of May 2014 to continue to develop and raise awareness of delivering Welsh in English speaking clubs and projects.
- 4.5 BCBC Youth Service has developed the Youth Inspire Awards which is an informal Youth Service accreditation recognising the skills and knowledge young people gain from taking part in a range of curriculum activities. The award has three different levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold - the higher the level the more challenging the award becomes. It is essential that each activity is an achievement with an outcome above and beyond normal expectations. This award can be undertaken through the medium of Welsh. In addition, young people have the opportunity to undertake the Mayor's Award in Welsh. This award has been designed to provide an opportunity for young people as a progression route to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There is a huge choice of activities that count towards each section of the Mayor's Award. Participants can select many activities.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme actively encourages young people to develop an awareness of the diversity in the topography of Wales by the utilisation of National Trust areas when undertaking expeditions. 6 young people completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award in Welsh through the online eDofE model last year.

- 4.6 The Youth Service has developed three new volunteer packs supporting the development of volunteering programmes for young people through to adulthood. The volunteering packs incorporate Junior Leaders aged 14-16 years, Senior Members training 16 – 18 years and 18 + volunteering. The packs have been developed in collaboration with The Vale Youth Service and are currently being translated into Welsh. These can be utilised in both statutory and Third Sector organisations so all young people have the same opportunities to participate in standardised progression routes.
- 4.7 After undertaking consultation with staff members and volunteers the Youth Service's accredited, on-line, induction is currently being updated to reflect the changes in policy steers and to be more user friendly. This will additionally be available in Welsh and will continue to be accredited through Agored Cymru.
- 4.8 BCBC Youth Service offers a counselling service through the medium of Welsh at YGG Llangynwyd via a bilingual therapist, although over 90% of young people accessing this service within the Welsh school chose English as their first language. It is acknowledged at an all Wales level that there is a shortage of Welsh speaking therapists for schools based counselling services.
- 4.9 Bridgend Youth Service continues to develop opportunities for young people through the use of social media. In partnership with CLIC, a national information based initiative, the local 'Bwsted' website delivers information and support in both Welsh and English. The Youth Service has also developed social networking sites for the use of young people. The static information on these sites is bilingual.
- 4.10 Young people also reserve the right to request any information sent out through an online network in Welsh as well as English. In addition, the Youth Service worked nationally with other Youth Services across Wales to develop a social media policy specifically for youth workers. This policy is available in Welsh for teachers and

youth workers who prefer to receive this information in the Welsh medium. The Health and Wellbeing mobile service that, primarily deliver sexual health and substance misuse services within local communities across the borough ensure all literature and resources are bilingual.

- 4.11 The Youth Service, as lead provider for Families First Programme 1 Family Learning Programme, commissioned services to deliver family support, linked to schools, delivered through the medium of Welsh
- 4.12 The Youth Service employs an administration assistant who is a fluent Welsh speaker who is able to provide paperwork and verbal communication through the medium of Welsh.

5. Effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.

- 5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 This is an information report and, as such, no EIA is required.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications in relation to this report. All provision has been met from existing budgets for the financial year ending March 2014. There may be changes during the period March 2014 – March 2015 as there has been a temporary operational restructure pending the outcome of the Youth Service review, primarily impacting on the part time service. In addition, Welsh is embedded in the Families First programme of which the Youth Service are lead on themes 1 and 5. Funding for the Families First programme has been secured until March 2016.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 That Cabinet Committee Equalities notes the content of this report.

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Background documents

None