

Committee	Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report	Update Report on Remodelling the Youth Service
Date of meeting	23 January 2020
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Dilwyn Morgan
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Cabinet made a decision on 13 March 2018 to remodel the Youth Service. The Cabinet reconsidered specific elements of the remodelling on 12 June, following the Council's decision on 3 May.
- 1.2 The remodelling of the Youth Service to establish the new model commenced on 1 September 2018.
- 1.3 The Youth Service has been reporting on the remodelling progress and the service's performance via the Performance Challenging procedure throughout the year.
- 1.4 The Cabinet Member wishes to provide the Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress during the first year of remodelling.

2. Progress Report

- 2.1 A report on the first year of remodelling is included in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The main conclusions of the first year review are that the work programme for the year has been completed; that the service's performance is somewhat better than expected; that young people's rates of engagement with the service have remained the same despite the reduction in service; and that those young people who have been involved with the service report that they have received the support they need.
- 2.3 However, the review also shows, due to recruitment challenges, that the Service is not operating at full capacity; that more of the Management Team's time has been spent supporting Community Council Clubs than anticipated, and that this demand is likely to continue.

3. Impact Assessment of the change

- 3.1 The Equality Impact Assessment has been updated at the end of the first year.
- 3.2 The main conclusion of the review of the impact assessment is that the mitigation measures implemented have reduced the negative impacts anticipated. No further / new negative impacts without mitigation measures in place for their management have been identified.
- 3.3 The Youth Service also completed specific work to mitigate the impact of remodelling on matters not associated with equality; namely the impact of ending a grant for third sector organisations, and the geographic impact of moving from static Youth Clubs to a programme of activities.
- 3.4 In terms of the third sector, the service has established a Commissioning Framework to reinforce the youth provision for those aged 16-24. The Framework has commissioned with organisations such as Frân Wen.
- 3.5 An agreement with the Urdd to provide training and expeditions as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award has continued during the year.
- 3.6 In addition to this, we have contributed towards the provision of a voluntary LGBT+ Club; drugs awareness sessions with Eryri Young Farmers' Clubs; and an awareness raising and homelessness prevention provision with GISDA.

- 3.7 In terms of the geographic impact, the Youth Service has ensured that the new model has visited large and small communities across the county. Due to some communities' concern regarding the lack of regular presence in the form of a social club for young people run by the Youth Service, we have also supported Community Councils in trialling and establishing their own arrangements to maintain Youth Clubs in their villages.
- 3.8 Community council youth clubs have opened in Nefyn, Caernarfon, Llanrug, Penygroes, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Llan Ffestiniog and Bethesda. All clubs have varied in terms of numbers, challenges and successes. Some clubs will be continuing into the next year, and others will be reconsidering and amending their arrangements.
- 3.9 We have also supported the town and community councils of Bryncrug and Porthmadog, but due to recruitment and staffing issues, these clubs have not been established.
- 3.10 We have also supported other communities in establishing arrangements for social Youth Clubs for Young People such as those of Deiniolen, Barmouth and Waunfawr.
4. Since the Cabinet made the decision to remodel the Youth Service, there have been some further changes to the strategic and policy context within the field. Welsh Government has
- published its National Youth Work Strategy in June 2019. The existing Youth Service here in Gwynedd addresses the priorities of that strategy.
 - announced its desire to revisit the 'Extending Entitlement for those aged 11-25' Statutory Guideline. The review has not yet commenced and therefore we cannot anticipate what the impact of this may be on the youth service in Gwynedd.
 - awarded Health and Welfare and Homelessness Prevention grants to the youth services of each local authority for 2019-2020.
5. Next Steps
- 5.1 The second year of remodelling is already underway. The main emphasis for this year is.
- Integrate the 5 Ways to Wellbeing throughout the Youth Service
 - Develop volunteering opportunities for young people
 - Develop more community based opportunities for young people
 - The development of the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework
 - Ad-Trac project evaluation
 - Secure funding to extend the Ad-Trac provision post European funding
 - Further develop new partnerships with partners and schools.